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YOUR SCRIBES THAT SET YE A' TO RIGHTS, AND WIELD THE GOLDEN PEN;  
THE SESSION COURT, YOUR THRANG RESORT, BIG WIGS, AND LANG GOWNS A';  
AND IF YE DINNA KEEP THE PEACE, IT'S NO FOR WANT O' LAW.”

*BARONESS NAIRNE.*

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*A. & C. Black*

MODERN ATHENIANS







*R. W. Crombie Jr.*

THE AUTHOR OF WATERLOO

*London. 351. Published by R. Ackermann 36. Strand*

# MODERN ATHENIANS

A SERIES OF ORIGINAL PORTRAITS

OF MEMORABLE

CITIZENS OF EDINBURGH

DRAWN AND ETCHED BY

BENJAMIN W. CROMBIE

MINIATURE PAINTER

1837 TO 1847

NOW REPRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL PLATES

WITH NEW ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

BY WILLIAM SCOTT DOUGLAS

EDINBURGH: ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK

1882

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## PREFATORY NOTICE.

IN the absence of reliable facts relating to the talented artist who produced this little gallery of contemporaneous portraits, nothing like a memoir of him can be here supplied. In that respect we can only offer such stray memoranda as have been gleaned while in pursuit of the information conveyed in the following letterpress, descriptive of the group of notables whom he chose to embrace under the title "Men of Modern Athens." These graphic delineations of face and figure, representing nearly a hundred once familiar indwellers of Edinburgh (all of them, with one solitary exception, now dead) had, for about thirty years, been withdrawn from the public eye, and their present owner, to gratify some curious inquirers, has permitted their reappearance in a form more inviting and convenient than what was originally presented.

The name of Benjamin William Crombie, as a miniature painter, may be found in the earlier catalogues of our Scottish Academy, of a time when its annual exhibitions were held in the upper galleries of a tenement in Waterloo Place. While yet under thirty years of age he published a pair of companion prints, which commanded an extensive sale, and are still occasionally seen in frame, hung on the walls of lawyers' chambers and in clerical parlours. They were styled "Crombie's Contemporary Portraits. Part I. THE BAR: Part II. THE PULPIT," and were drawn on stone by the artist, presenting on each single sheet the heads

in profile of twelve members of the respective professions. That production was followed by a striking full-length portrait of Sir Walter Scott, taken *impromptu* from the living subject by stolen snatches within two years of his death. Impressions of the latter are now exceedingly scarce, and a reproduction of it forms the Frontispiece to this volume. The figures in the present miscellaneous collection have been hit off, in most instances, with perfect identity, although their names were originally withheld, and they certainly show great freedom of execution. The primitive order of publication of the several plates is here adopted, the first *sixteen* having appeared in 1839, and the remainder at considerable intervals, until the artist's death in June 1847 brought the series to a sudden close. In artistic treatment, and even as true likenesses, they are superior to the productions of the celebrated Kay, while the *penchant* for caricature which the elder limner too frequently indulged in has fortunately been sparingly exhibited by Crombie.

The circumstances of our artist's uneventful life are shrouded in the obscurity of bypast indifference. His death produced not a word of remark from the newspaper press of his period. His name had disappeared from the Edinburgh Directory prior to that event, and the cold obituary announcement—"At Edinburgh, on the 10th instant"—might almost suggest that his relatives were ashamed of the connection. His stock of etched copperplates was purchased from the executor of the deceased, by the late Mr. Hugh Paton, who had been the nominal publisher of that portion of the work previously presented to the public, and he soon thereafter completed the publication. These plates, in a condition fresh and unworn, were recently acquired by their present owner, who received with them only a bare catalogue of the persons represented. That list excepted, no information concerning the various

characters was furnished to the writer of these pages, the etchings being left, in most instances, to speak for themselves; therefore the heaviest part of his labours consisted in reading churchyard inscriptions and searching newspaper files back through a vista of forty years, in order to equip him for his almost hopeless undertaking. With this explanation, he trusts that some allowance will be made for any shortcomings observable in the performance now laid before the public.

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For information concerning the parentage and birth-date of Mr. Crombie we are indebted to a note furnished by the late David Laing, LL.D., in his valuable *Scott Centenary Catalogue*, 1871, which note we subjoin.<sup>1</sup> In Dr. Steven's *History of the High School*, 1849, the name of our artist is found in a list of medallists and duxes, given in an appendix, under the heading "College-Bailie Medallists for Writing." He obtained that distinction in 1815 at the age of twelve; and in a relative note

<sup>1</sup> One of Mr. Laing's illustrations is a reduced sketch of the full-length figure of the author of *Waverley*, which forms our Frontispiece, and referring to it he says: "It is from a drawing by Benjamin William Crombie, a miniature painter, Edinburgh, in 1831. He was the son of Mr. Andrew Crombie, solicitor-at-law, Edinburgh (*b.* 1761, *d.* September 1847), and was born at Fountainbridge, in the parish of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, July 19, 1803. Crombie will chiefly be remembered by a series of plates, coloured or tinted, which were published in separate parts, each plate having two figures, exhibiting a marked contrast, of the more striking personages in Edinburgh. They were afterwards collected and published in oblong folio, with this title—*Men of Modern Athens; or Portraits of Eminent Personages (existing or supposed to exist) in the Metropolis of Scotland*: Edinburgh, Hugh Paton, 1839-1857. They are cleverly drawn, and the names of the persons are given in a separate leaf in the complete set of 48 plates, or 96 full-length figures. The one of the author of *Waverley* is of an earlier date, and not included in that volume."

the author explains that the boy became an "artist and miniature painter, and died in Edinburgh, June 10, 1847."

The father of Benjamin had resided at 42 Fountainbridge from the close of last century down to the year 1842, when he removed his domicile to No. 1 Gillespie Street, where he died five years thereafter at the age of eighty-six. His writing-chambers were in Wardrope's Court, north side of the Lawnmarket, with an access to Mound Place by a common-stair still existing. He was, by two years, the junior brother of the noted John Crombie, dyester, who bestowed his name on a well-known close leading from Brown Square to the Cowgate. The latter died in 1830, somewhat beyond the age of seventy, and wore to the last the old-fashioned knee-breeches of corded silk and hose to match. A considerable compartment of ground in Greyfriars churchyard (a joint purchase of the two brothers—John the dyer, and Andrew the solicitor), now contains the bones of those patriarchs and their descendants. A roomy headstone shows a minute record of departed members, including our artist's father, who died on September 8, 1847 (predeceased by his wife in 1838); but we look in vain for the name of Benjamin, or, indeed, of any descendant of the old solicitor.

Benjamin Crombie's address after he began to practise as a miniature painter was at his father's house, 42 Fountainbridge; but the Edinburgh Directory of 1831 represents him as in the exercise of his profession at 23 Castle Street. Thereafter, down to the year before his death, his name is found at various addresses in the new town, the last being 14 Dundas Street. Whether he was married or single we have not been informed.

EDINBURGH, 11th November 1882.



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FRONTISPIECE.

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.—A.D. 1831.

ERRATA.

The earlier sheets were printed off before we noticed the following, which the reader will please correct :—

Page 15, line before quotation from Shakespeare ; *for* “ Hotspur ” *read* “ young Harry, the Prince.”  
 ,, 17, ,, 8 ; *after* “ thirty-five years old,” *add* “ when so transferred.”  
 ,, 127 and Plate XXXII. ; *for* “ David Tweedie ” *read* “ Robert Tweedie.”

## CROMBIE'S MODERN ATHENIANS.

*(Chronology of their Deaths.)*

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1838. May 9. Died at Edinburgh, Captain Hugo Arnot of Balcormo . . . . .	VIII.
1839. Apr. 16. At S. Frederick Street, Edinburgh, aged 63, Lieut.-Gen. Robert Ainslie . . . . .	III.
„ June 18. At Edinburgh, John R. Irving of Bonshaw, Advocate (Bar 1793) . . . . .	VIII.
„ Oct. 28. At 8 Bank Street, aged 73, Robert Burt, M.D. . . . .	XVII.
1840. May 17. At Charlotte Square, Adam Duff, Esq., Sheriff of Mid- lothian (Bar 1799) . . . . .	XIV.
1842. July 28. Rev. David Dickson, D.D., Minister of St. Cuthbert's Church . . . . .	II.
„ Dec. 24. Died at Leamington, the Hon. Adam (Lord) Gillies, aged 76 (Bar 1787) . . . . .	XIII.
1843. Feb. 25. At 6 Buccleuch Place, Robert Thomson, Importer of Irish Linen, Royal Exchange . . . . .	IX.
„ Mar. 16. At 21 Abercromby Place, Roger Aytoun, Esq., W.S. (passed 1790) . . . . .	XVII.
„ Sept. 22. At 3. Park Place, George Joseph Bell, Esq., Professor of Scots Law (Bar 1791), aged 73 . . . . .	XII.
„ Oct. 11. At Greenhill Cottage, John Menzies, Esq., of Pitfodels (R.I.P.) . . . . .	XXI.
1844. July 16. At Old Broughton, James Pedie, Esq., W.S. (passed 1813)	XI.
„ Aug. 17. At Royal Infirmary, aged 69, John Sheriff, "Syntax" . . . . .	I.
1845. Apr. 2. At George Square, Robert Sym, Esq., W.S., aged 93 (passed in 1775) . . . . .	X.
„ Sept. 30. At 11 Royal Circus, aged 81, Robert Forsyth, Esq., Advocate (Bar 1792) . . . . .	XVI.
1846. Aug. 30. At 5 Heriot Row, aged 84, James Jollie, Esq., W.S. (passed 1783), of the firm of James and Walter Jollie . . . . .	X.
„ Oct. 24. At Glasgow, J. F. Williams, Esq., R.S.A., Landscape Painter, of 121 Princes Street, Edinburgh . . . . .	XXIV.
1847. Mar. 18. At 31 Great King Street, John Tweedie, Esq., W.S. (passed 1795) . . . . .	XXXII.
„ May 31. At Churchhill, Morningside, the Rev. Thomas Chalmers, D.D., New College . . . . .	XXXIV.

			PLATE
1847.	June 10.	<b>BENJAMIN WILLIAM CROMBIE.</b> Died in Edinburgh, the Artist of these Portraits.	
	„ Aug. 16.	At 26 Queen Street, Alexander Robertson, Esq., of Eldin (Music-seller)	XXII.
	„ Dec. 3.	At 27 Abercromby Place, Sir Charles G. S. Menteith, of Closeburn	XXIX.
1848.	May 1.	At 29 Drummond Place, Major James Pearson, H.E.I.C.S., aged 61	XXXV.
	„ May 29.	At Grange House, Sir Thomas Dick-Lauder, Bart., aged 64	XV.
	„ July 2.	At 2 Charlotte Square, John Jeffrey, Esq., aged 73	VI.
1849.	Feb. 24.	At 9 Dundas Street, aged 82, Alexander Youngson, Esq., W.S. (passed 1794)	I. XLV.
	„ Mar. 7.	At 79 Great King Street, Robert Whigham, Esq., Sheriff of Perthshire (Bar 1816)	XXXI.
	„ Oct. 28.	At 7 Bruntsfield Place, Alexander Smellie, Esq., Printer	XXXVIII.
1850.	Jan. 26.	At 24 Moray Place, the Hon. Francis (Lord) Jeffrey (Bar 1794)	XXV.
	„ Mar. 6.	At Riccarton, aged 84, Sir James Gibson-Craig, Bart., W.S. (passed 1786)	XV.
	„ June 18.	At 26 Queen Street, Alexander Cleghorn, Esq., Inspector General of Exports and Imports for Scotland	XLVII.
	„ June 21.	At 10 Darnaway Street, John Gray, Esq., S.L. (passed 1788)	XLII.
	„ Aug. 15.	At 22 Queen Street, Alexander Kidston, late of Jamaica, aged 87	XX.
	„ ?	At 9 Great King Street, John Jardine, Esq., Sheriff of Ross (Bar 1799)	XX.
1851.	Feb. 18.	At 1 Vanburgh Place, Leith Links, aged 94, George Thomson, Esq. (Musical correspondent of Burns)	XXIV.
	„ Mar. 17.	At 28 Drummond Place, Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, Esq.	VI.
	„ Mar. 30.	At 47 Moray Place, Sir James (Lord) Moncreiff, Bart. (Bar 1799)	XLI.
	„ Apr. 11.	At 8 Annandale Street, William Gallaway, Accountant	XXVII.
	„ ?	At the English Hotel, 10 South St. Andrew Street, Mr. Robert Hadley	XXX.
	„ June 10.	At his brother's house in Melville Street, the Hon. Thomas Maitland (Lord Dundrennan) (Bar 1813)	XXVI.
	„ July 1.	At 17 Drummond Place, aged 71, Alexander Douglas, Esq., W.S. (passed 1808)	IX.
	„ Sept. 3.	At Canonmills Cottage, Patrick Neill, Esq., LL.D., aged 74	XXVII.
1852.	May 5.	At St. Andrews, William H. Murray, Esq., Theatre Royal	XLIV.
1853.	Apr. 8.	At 3 Buccleuch Place, George Sandy, Esq., W.S., late Secretary Bank of Scotland (passed 1798)	XI.
	„ Sept. 1.	At Brussels, Lieut.-General Sir Neil Douglas, K.C.B., etc.	XXXVII.
	„ Sept. 28.	At London, the Hon. Adam (Lord) Anderson, aged 56	XXVI.
1853.	Oct. 21.	At 14 Northumberland Street, the Rev. Robert Gordon, D.D., aged 67	V.

CHRONOLOGY.

XV

	PLATE
1854. ? At Garvoch, Fifeshire, Robert Scott Moncreiff-Wellwood, of Pitliver, formerly of 17 Leopold Place, Edinburgh .	XLIV.
„ Feb. 9. At Coupar-Angus, aged 81, the Rev. Alexander Brunton, D.D., Professor of Hebrew, etc. . . . .	VII.
„ Mar. 27. At 10 Gayfield Square, the Rev. J. W. Ferguson, St. James's Episcopal Chapel . . . . .	XXIII.
„ Apr. 3. At 6 Gloucester Place, John Wilson, Esq., Professor of Moral Philosophy, etc. . . . .	XII.
„ Apr. 8. At Prestonhall, W. Burn Callender, Esq., of Prestonhall .	XXIX.
„ Apr. 26. At Bonaly, the Hon. Henry (Lord) Cockburn . . . . .	XIV.
„ Oct. 26. At 23 Moray Place, the Hon. John (Lord) Cuninghame (Bar 1807) . . . . .	XIII.
1855. Jan. 10. At 32 Drummond Place, the Hon. Patrick Robertson, LL.D. (Lord Robertson) (Bar 1815) . . . . .	XVIII.
„ Mar. 21. At 15 Castle Street, James Gillespie Graham, Esq., of Orchill, Architect . . . . .	XXXVI.
„ ? In Ireland, Bindon Blood, Esq., of Cranacher, lately of 22 Queen Street, Edinburgh . . . . .	III.
1856. ? Charles Cuninghame, Esq., W.S. (passed 1808)	XLVIII.
1858. Feb. 24. At 9 Howe Street, Thomas Hamilton, Esq., Architect . .	XXXVI.
„ June 14. At 20 Moray Place, Right Hon. John Hope, Lord Justice Clerk (Bar 1816) . . . . .	XVIII.
„ Aug. 14. At Moor Park, Surrey, George Combe, Esq., W.S. (passed 1812), of 45 Melville Street, Edinburgh . . . . .	XLII.
„ Dec. 17. At 6 Moray Place, John Learmonth, Esq., of Dean . . . . .	XXXIX.
„ Dec. 27. At Bushby Heath, Herts, the Ven. John Williams, Arch- deacon of Cardigan . . . . .	XLIII.
„ ? At 70 Great King Street, Robert Thomson, Esq., Sheriff of Caithness (Bar 1812) . . . . .	IV.
1859. Mar. 7. At 11 Great Stuart Street, Sir John Archibald (Lord) Murray (Bar 1800) . . . . .	XXV.
„ Mar. 10. At Craiglockhart House, Dr. Alexander Monro, Professor of Anatomy . . . . .	XLVI.
„ May 2. At the University of Edinburgh, aged 79, the Very Rev. Principal John Lee . . . . .	XXXIV.
1860. Nov. 24. At 16 Leopold Place, aged 90, John A. Bertram, Wine Merchant, Leith . . . . .	XL.
1861. Feb. 17. At 25 Drummond Place, Walter Cook, Esq., W.S. (passed 1801) . . . . .	XIX.
„ Apr. 27. At 15 Great Stuart Street, Robert Bell, Esq., Sheriff of Berwickshire (Bar 1804) . . . . .	XLI.
„ July 12. At 19 Great King Street, John Shank More, Esq., LL.D., Professor of Scots Law (Bar 1806) . . . . .	XVI.
1865. Aug. 4. At Elgin, aged 52, William Edmonstoune Aytoun, Esq., Sheriff of Orkney (Bar 1840) . . . . .	XXXVIII.
1866. June 21. At 9 Regent Terrace, the Rev. John Hunter, D.D.	VII.

	PLATE
1868. Feb. 3. At 15 Upper Gray Street, Newington, Captain John Robertson . . . . .	XL.
„ July 30. At Edinburgh, the Rev. Patrick Clason, D.D. . . . .	V.
1868. Sept. 30. At 6 Great King Street, Walter Duthie, Esq., W.S. (passed 1817) . . . . .	XLVII.
„ Oct. 27. At Curriehill, Hon. John Marshall (Lord Curriehill) (Bar 1818) . . . . .	XXXI.
1869. June 23. At Murrayfield, the Rev. William Muir, D.D., LL.D. . . . .	XIX.
1870. Oct. 28. At 19 Brighton Place, Portobello, Vice-Admiral Thomas Fraser . . . . .	XXXV.
1871. Dec. 23. At 67 Northumberland Street, Robert Hunter, Esq., Sheriff of Dumbaron, etc. (Bar 1814) . . . . .	IV.
1872. Feb. 12. At 36 Charlotte Square, Patrick Shaw, Esq., Advocate (Bar 1819) . . . . .	XXXIII.
„ Apr. 2. At Edinburgh, the Right Rev. C. H. Terrott, Episcopalian Bishop, aged 81 . . . . .	XXIII.
1873. Feb. 24. At St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, the Rev. Thomas Guthrie, D.D., of Edinburgh . . . . .	XXI.
„ Oct. 19. At Edinburgh, the Rev. R. S. Candlish, D.D., aged 67 . . . . .	II.
1874. Jan. 24. At 38 Drummond Place, Adam Black, Esq., aged 89 . . . . .	XLVIII.
„ Jan. 31. At Pau, the Right Hon. Duncan M'Neill (Lord Colonsay) . . . . .	XXXIX.
„ Sept. 15. At 76 Great King Street, the Hon. Hercules J. Robertson (Lord Benholme) (Bar 1817) . . . . .	XXXIII.
1875. Nov. 3. At Portobello, Robert Mercer, Esq., of Scotsbank, W.S. (passed 1821), aged 78 . . . . .	XLV.
1877. ? ? James Simson, Esq., M.D., 3 Glenfinlas Street . . . . .	XLVI.
1879. Sept. . At Leamington, George Dunlop, Esq., Writer, son of the late George Dunlop, Esq., W.S., who died 6th Dec. 1852 . . . . .	XXX.
1881. Apr. 5. At Kensington, London, James Aytoun, Esq., of Capletrae (Bar 1818) . . . . .	XXII.
? ? David Tweedie, Esq. (of the Firm of Tweedie, Graham, and Anderson, W.S.) . . . . .	XXXII.
? ? Captain H. Augustus Jocelyn, married to a daughter of Sir Neil Douglas . . . . .	XXXVII.
? ? Rev. Thomas Russell, 12 Athole Place . . . . .	XXVIII.
? ? Hector Macneill, Esq. . . . .	XXVIII.
Right Rev. Thomas George Suther, Episcopal Bishop of Aberdeen . . . . .	XLIII.

(The whole of these Portraits were taken prior to the year 1848, and all the parties are dead except the last named.)





Nº 1.

Alexander Youngson.

MODERN ATHENIANS

John Sheriff.

Edinburgh 1839.



PLATE I.—A.D. 1839.

ALEXANDER YOUNGSON, Esq., W.S.

JOHN SHERIFF, ALIAS "DOCTOR SYNTAX."

IT is not easy to perceive the artist's motive for placing these two figures on one plate. Poor "Dr. Syntax," on the right hand, was a habit and repute imbecile, while Mr. Youngson's only title to be regarded as "a character" was his persevering attachment to the blue coat and yellow buttons made fashionable by Prince George of Wales, as the Whig livery, worn in compliment to Charles Fox, half a century before the sketch was produced. Mr. Youngson's figure must have been a favourite subject for the pencil of Mr. Crombie, who has given us two representations of him in the present series. *Here* he is enrobed in a great blue mantle of peculiar cut, such as may have been worn by Julius Cæsar on the memorable

" Summer evening in his tent,  
That day he overcame the Nervii."

In a subsequent effort of the artist (which the reader will find onward), Mr. Youngson has doffed his mantle, and shines out in pure blue and gold, wearing a smart eyeglass suspended from his neck by a sparkling chain of real 18 carat. There can be little dubiety about the circumstance that Mr. Youngson or his friends had taken offence, and remonstrated with the artist, or his printseller, concerning the insult implied by showing him off on the same plate with a "perfect natural" like Doctor Syntax. Mr. Crombie, or his responsible "doer," must have offered to cancel the etching complained of, provided Mr. Youngson would stand for his picture anew, uncloaked and in full dress, and consent to appear publicly on the same page with a worthy member of his own profession—Mr. Robert Mercer, W.S., to wit. That arrangement was so far given effect to, but Mr. Crombie having, not long thereafter, predeceased Mr. Youngson by

two years, without having erased the etching from the copper, it is accordingly our privilege to present this subject in duplicate.

Mr. ALEXANDER YOUNGSON, W.S., came to Edinburgh from Aberdeen, if we mistake not, and passed the Signet in 1794, when he was full twenty-seven years of age. He resided, so far back as we have been able to trace him, at No. 9 Dundas Street, where he is said to have conducted a fair business, much of which was derived from litigious customers in the city of "Bon-accord." He seems to have continued all his life a bachelor—but surely not entirely of his own *accord*?

At the date of Crombie's first sketch, he was seventy-two years old, which period he survived exactly ten years. A fine mural tablet over his grave in Warriston Cemetery can be seen a few yards apart from that of Dr. Patrick Neill, on the western wall, which bears the following inscription:—

"Alexander Youngson Esq., W.S. died 24th February 1849, aged 82.—Erected by Mrs. Simpson, his sister, Manse of Strichen, Aberdeenshire."

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In the same cemetery where the bones of Alexander Youngson repose, "waiting a resurrection morn," but in a diagonally opposite direction, that is to say, near the eastern side-entrance, has been erected by reverent hands, a neat headstone close by the pathway leading westwards, bearing the following inscription:—

"In memory of JOHN SHERIFF, who died 17th August  
1844, aged 69 years.—Erected by those who mourn  
the loss of SYNTAX."

That little tablet marks the grave of the odd-looking human being who is represented in this etching along with Mr. Youngson. He is believed to have been a native of the south Border of Scotland, who, during the last twenty-five years of his life, had managed to cut a curious figure as a residenter in Edinburgh. At an earlier period he had been a clerk in the City Cess Office, and it was while in this situation that his mental aberration first manifested itself. For a considerable number of years preceding his death he inhabited alone a good house, but meanly furnished, at the top of a long stair on the south side of a little court in St. James's Square, north-west corner thereof, adjoining Elder Street. There he attended to his own wants, without assistance from any one in his household operations; and although he followed no occupation by

which he could earn a livelihood, it is satisfactory to know that his humble wants were provided for by the united liberality of a few benevolent citizens, who gave him liberty to make purchases to a certain extent weekly. It had been said, or perhaps assumed, that a cross in love in early life excited the unhappy malady which in a manner isolated him from the sympathies of other men, and tinged his thoughts and feelings with that morbid misanthropy which he permanently exhibited.

Although the peculiarities of poor John Sheriff displayed much of the monomaniac, there was a harmlessness and innocence about him which made him a general favourite. "Doctor Syntax" was the name conferred on him by universal consent, doubtless bestowed from the remarkable likeness he showed to the figure so called in Rowlandson's coloured prints, published about the year 1815. He devoted nearly his whole time to frequenting the most public places, more particularly the University classrooms and the city churches. By favour of the professors and lecturers, his free right of access to the lecture-rooms was seldom if ever challenged; and it was his boast that he had attended more than a hundred courses of lectures. Like the generality of half-witted persons, he had his tale to tell of persecutions and oppressions endured at the hand of mysterious enemies; and the same notion induced the feeling that, notwithstanding his skill in medical science and practice, these same enemies had conspired to prevent his obtaining the well-earned degree of M.D. which he had so often applied for. A desire to manifest that his detractors had not altogether crushed him seemed to be a ruling motive for his celebrated Sunday exhibitions. Dressed with the most scrupulous care and cleanliness, in an antiquated costume of semi-military character, with highly-polished Hessian boots, he was to be seen every Sunday stalking at a rapid pace through the streets with his cane poised on his shoulder. He rendered himself still more grotesque by wearing a pair of green spectacles and a remarkably low-crowned hat—probably a cast-off one of Dr. John Ritchie's, the well-known voluntary church controversialist. Into this queer hat he would, on extra-state occasions, stick a plume of peacock's feathers, and he was sure to plant himself in the most prominent seat in the front gallery of one of the city churches, where he made himself still more conspicuous by standing up during the singing of the psalm, and causing his not over-musical voice to ring through every corner of the sanctuary. We recollect about the year 1843, when the Rev. Robert ("Satan") Montgomery delivered a course of Sunday lectures in the

English Chapel, Roxburgh Place, he never missed being present in the gallery there, and with a huge "common Prayer-Book" held close to his face, he stood up, singing the chaunts and responses with all his might, as if he had been familiarly bred to that style of service.

But it was the High Church of St. Giles, during the colleagueship of Principal Baird and Dr. Gordon, that he claimed as his own stated place of worship; and happy man was he when he could secure for himself, without molestation, the seat of the Lord High Commissioner. When safely ensconced there, he would employ himself in his favourite hobby of portrait-sketching—an art in which he attained some dexterity—and while those around him were being dosed into somnolency by the rising and falling inflexions from the pulpit, he was busy plying his art, and filling his portfolio with rare cartoons.<sup>1</sup> He had on some special occasion attended St. George's Church, when the marked conspicuousness of his behaviour caused him to be forcibly ejected, and that was an affront which he never forgave, nor ceased to enlarge upon, when relating the malicious designs of his persecutors.

Poor Syntax was missed from the streets during some weeks before the public were made aware of his decease. He had contracted a severe cold, and, getting gradually worse, some kind persons who felt interested in his welfare made their way into his house, and procured a medical attendant for him. He had a dread of medicine, through suspicion of attempts to poison him, and could scarcely be prevailed on to make use of the simplest remedies that were recommended to him. By dint of manœuvres he was at length induced to leave the house for the offered benefit of an airing in an open coach, and was wheeled off to the Royal Infirmary. When there he still doggedly refused to swallow the medicines prescribed for him, and after lingering about ten days, the sand-glass of his existence at length dropped its last particle on the day already stated, and Syntax was no more seen among "Modern Athenians."

<sup>1</sup> That he had some faint idea of politics, or of the policy of good manners, at all events, is indicated by the following circumstance. It had been a time-honoured custom on the first Sunday after the general election of the Town Council, for the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council to attend the High Church, where a particular pew, in front of a side-loft, was set apart for them in their robes of office. As the result of a very ill-judged motion, a resolution had been passed in Council, that the custom should be abolished; but Dr. Syntax, with his person decorated with more than usual display, made his appearance in the pew by way of filling up the unsightly vacuum, and remarked that he did so in order to set the Magistrates an example of good manners!



N<sup>o</sup>. 2.

Rev. David Dickson.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Rev. R. S. Candlish.

Edinburgh, 1839





PLATE II.—A.D. 1839.

REV. DR. DICKSON, OF ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH.

REV. ROBERT S. CANDLISH, M.A., OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

THE artist here represents the kindly senior minister of the West Church giving the right hand of fellowship to his comparatively youthful brother of St. George's. Besides the contrast in years and in bulk between the two pastors, there existed as marked a difference in their respective temperaments, and their prevailing sentiments on abstruse matters then agitating the Establishment to which they belonged. Of the "ten years' conflict" to obtain imaginary freedom from a supposed intolerable bondage, four years had yet to run; but in manœuvres of party and controversial wranglings Dr. Dickson had no inclination to mix, and the good man did not survive to witness their culmination in "the Disruption." He had obtained some reputation as a Hebrew scholar, and his pulpit prelections were evangelically sound; but his main characteristic was large-hearted benevolence, with untiring devotion to the individual interests of his very extensive flock.

Both the father and grandfather of Dr. DICKSON had been parish ministers, each of some note in his day, and all three bore the Christian name of David. Our subject was born on February 23, 1780, within his father's manse of Libberton, near Biggar; but in consequence of calls and appointments in favour of the elder Dickson, first to a parish near Stirling, and thereafter to Edinburgh, the family were shifted about till the younger David grew up into manhood. In 1801, when his father was promoted to a collegiate pastorate of the New North parish in Edinburgh, young David himself was duly licensed as a preacher. His first appointment was to the chapel in Kilmarnock where John Russell, the celebrated victim of many satirical effusions of Burns, had lately officiated. He had been located there little above a year when he was recalled to Edinburgh,

and appointed to fill a vacancy in the collegiate charge of St. Cuthbert's, to which he was admitted in May 1803, his colleague being the distinguished Sir Henry Moncreiff. For nearly forty years thereafter, he was privileged to continue in the same parish, doing the work of a faithful minister to a satisfied people, and earning at the same time the esteem of the general public within the city. In 1808 he married Janet, a daughter of James Jobson, Esq., Dundee, by whom he had a family of three sons and three daughters. His father dying in 1820, the son and namesake was no longer addressed as "David Dickson, junior;" and the University of Edinburgh in 1824 conferred on him the degree of D.D. It will be remembered by the readers of Lockhart's *Life of Scott* that, along with Principal Baird, Dr. Dickson attended at Abbotsford on the melancholy occasion of Sir Walter's funeral, and conducted service within the house in the Scottish form. Archdeacon Williams was also in attendance, and performed the Church of England service at the grave.

The published works of Dr. Dickson consist chiefly of occasional contributions to the *Edinburgh Encyclopædia*, the *Christian Instructor*, etc. Two excellent funeral discourses by him were also published—the one, for his late colleague, Sir Henry Moncreiff, in 1827, and the other, for Dr. Andrew Thomson, in 1831. His own death occurred on 28th July 1842, and some time thereafter a very striking memorial of the deceased was erected on the west wall of St. Cuthbert's Church, in the form of a sculptured group showing an accurate portraiture of himself in the act of blessing the orphan children of a mourning widow, who presents them to the benevolent pastor. This is reckoned to be one of the late Handyside Ritchie's best works.

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ROBERT SMITH CANDLISH, young as he was, had been pastor of St. George's very important congregation and parish for about five years, at the time our artist made the sketch annexed. In that year also he ventured for the first time to let his voice be heard in the General Assembly of the Church. The recent adverse decision of the House of Lords in the Auchterarder case was being discussed, and so profound was the impression made by the address he delivered on that occasion, that he at once and permanently took his place in the front rank as a leader of the Scottish Kirk proceedings in that momentous era.

The very year of Mr. Candlish's ordination as minister of St. George's

was that in which the General Assembly, by passing the memorable "Veto Act," as a check to the evils of patronage in Church appointments, laid the train of exciting circumstances and procedure which, nine years thereafter, resulted in the Disruption. It would almost seem as if, in the dispensations of Providence, the young licentiate, till then unknown in Edinburgh, had been sent to the city in the day and the hour mysteriously appointed for him to become (unconsciously to himself) "the right man in the right place." Referring to his appearance in the General Assembly already adverted to, Dr. Robert Buchanan made the observation that "his very first effort found him abreast of the most practical and powerful orators, and as much at home in managing ecclesiastical affairs as those who had made this the study of their lives." Shortly thereafter, he was selected to move one of the most delicate and important resolutions in connection with the great controversy, namely, that of suspending from their sacred functions the seven Strathbogie ministers for setting at nought the authority of the Assembly. In 1841 the Home Secretary of the period had been induced to nominate Mr. Candlish to the newly instituted Professorship of Biblical Criticism in the University of Edinburgh, whereupon Lord Aberdeen, in the House of Lords, fell foul of the Government who had made such a proposal. "This man," said he, "has very recently committed a very flagrant violation of the law—this reverend gentleman—this 'Professor of Biblical Criticism,' if dealt with by the Court in the same way as any other person, should have been sent to prison, where he might find leisure to compose his first syllabus of lectures." Need it be said, the Government gave way, and cancelled the appointment!

In March of the year following the American College of Princeton, New Jersey, marked its disapprobation of the coarse treatment in high places thus dealt out to Mr. Candlish, by conferring on him the degree of D.D., a distinction which was endorsed by the Edinburgh University, although not until twenty-four years thereafter. At that period he had not sent forth any of the publications of Biblical scholarship which ere long he added from time to time to religious literature; but through the agency of the public press his name had become widely known. He was very active during the summer of 1839 in organising means to spread information among the public concerning the intricate and peculiar matters that so engrossed the attention of the Scottish Kirk. It was then that Mr. Hugh Miller was applied to on this subject, and the result was the

starting of the *Witness* newspaper, under the editorship of that popular writer, in 1840. Meanwhile the Non-Intrusion controversy waxed ever the hotter, and business qualifications, no less than the eloquence, of Dr. Candlish, secured him in the leading position which his talents and earnest inclinations fitted him to hold. As matters approached the inevitable crisis he took a chief share in the arrangements for the great Secession in May 1843, now a red-letter chapter in the history of his country.

The controversial conflict in which Candlish and others who have been styled, "the wild party" in the Kirk, seemed to live and move and have their being, was by him and his co-mates sincerely engaged in as a contest between good and evil, or indeed, literally, between God and the devil. Beyond Scotland, however, and even in some neuks of the mother-country, it was stared at with baffled wonder as to what it was all about! The opinions of the London press on the occasions of his appearance in pulpits or on platforms there, were in effect, that while his commanding oratory inspired sympathetic *indignation*, it was puzzling to comprehend what particular acts of injustice made them feel so very indignant! Henry Cockburn, an upright Presbyterian, who was disposed to sympathise a little, as his friends Jeffrey and Moncreiff did in very large measure, with that same "wild party" in their contendings with the Civil Court, has the following entry in his journal concerning Dr. Candlish, which may be acceptable to some readers:—"It requires the bright eye and the capacious brow of Candlish to get the better of the smallness of his person, which makes us sometimes wonder how it contains its inward fire. Not learned, nor even deeply read, his natural ability is excellent; and he has a capacity for public speaking which defective training alone has prevented from elevating him to a far higher place than he even yet possesses among the orators of Scotland. The crowds that fill his own church, and that gather wherever he is expected to appear, might make it probable that he is a great preacher, were there not so many instances of the popularity of mere zeal. But in truth, as he has hitherto used it, the pulpit is not his field. His true position is that of one of the principal leaders of his party." "All very good!" says a reviewer of Cockburn, "but considering that the oratorical successes of Dr. Candlish were achieved in utter absence of the graces—bodily presence, voice, gesture, lending him no aid whatever—it stands demonstrated that he had something within him passing show, and passing the strength and the height of common minds."

The contributions of Dr. Candlish to the literature of his time were remarkably extensive, considering the boundless activity of his life and labours in other directions. Not to mention his various pamphlets and articles in periodical works, his name is associated with quite a library of theological disquisition, characterised by an amount of genuine literary power, not too common in books of that description. A mere catalogue of these would occupy more space than can be afforded here.

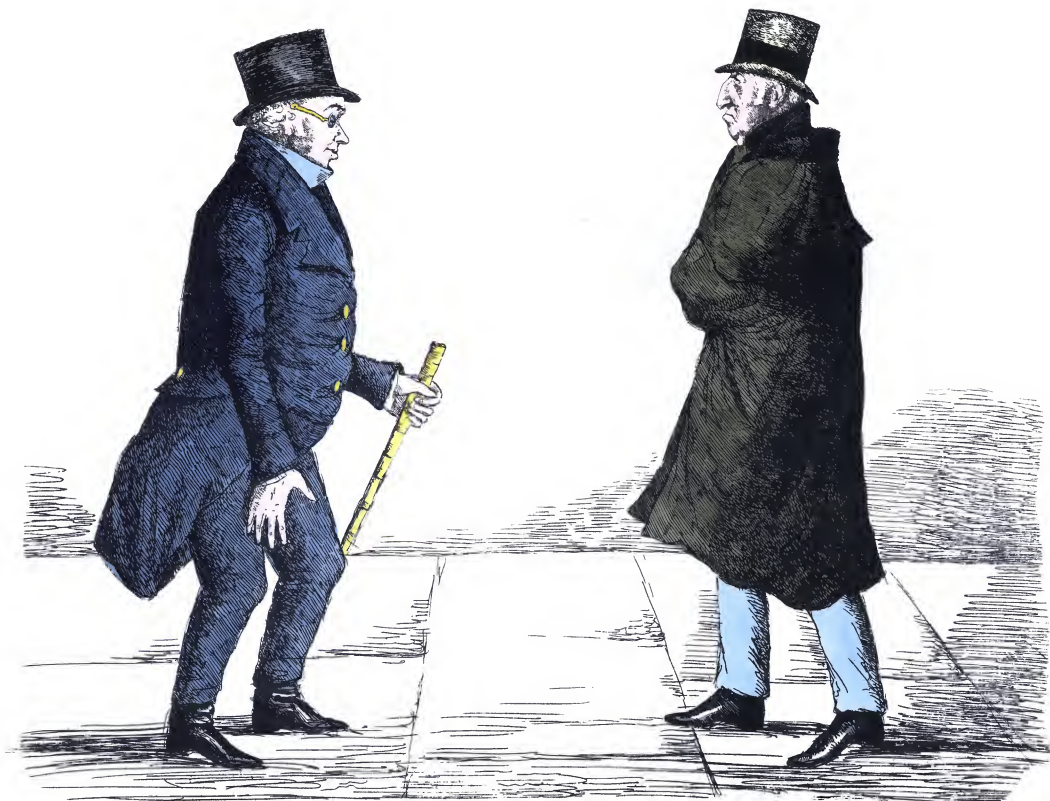
Dr. Candlish had his own share in those infirmities of temper which have cross-grained the virtues of some of the most idolised of men. He had differed with Mr. Hugh Miller long before the lamented end of that distinguished author, under circumstances rather *suggested* than explained in a posthumous memorandum of the aggrieved party. Mr. Miller seems to have been rebuked or charged by his imperative censors as "utterly deficient in tact;" and it was more than hinted to him that an editorial change was considered requisite for "putting the paper on a better footing." In that humble editor's view, "those proceedings savoured too strongly of wily diplomacy—not of the Church, but of the world." At the death of the great Chalmers in 1847, the learned Cunningham was promoted to the Principalship, and the Chair of Divinity thus vacated was appointed to be filled by Dr. Candlish. Some misunderstanding, however, soon occurred between the two champions in the same cause, and the new professor seemed to hail, as a Divine interposition in his behalf, the sudden death of his appointed successor as minister of St. George's; for he quickly resigned the chair and returned to the pulpit of his former ministrations. We have Dr. Candlish's own solemn assurance that the breach referred to was healed before death stepped in to render timely reconciliation impossible. Cunningham died near the close of 1861, and his mantle of office was placed on the shoulders of Dr. Candlish, who, after alluding to the recent bereavement as being a public loss, made use of these affectionate words:—"He was my friend to the last, and most devoutly do I thank my God I can say so. That which might have been to me the most overwhelming calamity has been averted; and without a single drop of bitterness mingling with my tears, I can follow my friend's remains to their last earthly home. I thank the Healer of all breaches that—not yesterday, but some years ago, the darkest cloud that ever gathered over my happiness, in so far as that lay in human fellowship, passed quite away, and we were to one another as before."

The death of Albert, the Queen's consort, happened almost at the

same time as that of Principal Cunningham, and in Dr. Candlish's reverence for what he deemed to be "the only inspired canon of Scripture," together with his intolerance of foreign aggression, he publicly denounced the selection of a text from the Apocrypha for part of the inscription on the Balmoral Cairn, erected by the Queen in memory of her late husband. His protest closed with these words :—"I say this with the deepest sorrow if it is the Queen who is responsible ; I say it with the deepest indignation whoever else it may be."

It must not, however, be assumed from the public fervour and controversial spirit of Dr. Candlish that he was in the slightest degree unamiable in private life. The most convincing testimony might be adduced to show that he naturally possessed a playful simplicity of character which endeared him to those who were associated with him in domestic and social relations. Away from the fretting cares and exactions of public duty, the stern stuff he seemed to have been altogether composed of became plastic, and would yield, as occasion offered, till the logician and the churchman became the leader of innocent sport, and his merriment rivalled that of the lightest heart in the game.

His own earthly work and pilgrimage came to a close on the night of Sunday, 19th October 1873, after a death-bed confinement of two weeks, at the age of sixty-seven. Only eight days prior to the end, he jocularly boasted of the soundness of his lungs in contrast to the feebleness of his limbs. "If you were to set me up in the pulpit," he said, "I still could make you all hear on the deafest side of your heads." The remains of the heroic little man were honoured with a public funeral, and laid in a rocky bed on the south-side crags of the Calton Old Burial Ground, beside the dust of his father and mother, and other kindred. He was survived by Mrs. Candlish, *née* Janet Brock, to whom he was married at Renfrew in 1835. One son, the Rev. James Candlish, Professor of Divinity in Free Church College, Glasgow, and three daughters—two of these being married—also survived their father.



A.3.

Genl Ainslie.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Bindon Blood.

Edinburgh. 1839.





PLATE III.—A.D. 1838.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL GEORGE R. AINSLIE.

BINDON BLOOD, ESQ., OF CRANACHER.

THE only information we have been able to glean concerning the first of this eccentric-looking pair of Athenians is, that he resided in South Frederick Street, and had in his day been the author of a work on Anglo-French coinage. He was about sixty-two years of age when the sketch was made, but looked considerably older, for no doubt he had "seen a little service," and come out of it into the retired list, a little the worse of tear and wear. That he had picked up acquaintanceship with the military-looking man opposite is not to be wondered at, as they must often have met at auction sales; for while the one had a passion for old coins, old china, and old port, the other was a noted collector of whatever was esteemed rare and valuable in old literature. There is a grand-looking portrait of "Sir William Wallace, General, and Governor of Scotland," near the close of Kay's second volume of Edinburgh Portraits, which the Editor suggests may have been taken from "an original copy in the possession of Lieut.-General Ainslie of this city, and which had been in the General's family upwards of a century." His death is announced in the newspaper obituaries of the period as having occurred on 16th April 1839, at the age of sixty-three.

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The other "character" on the sheet is BINDON BLOOD of Cranacher, wherever that may be, in Ireland, who made his appearance in this city about the year 1829, and took up his residence at 22 Queen Street, continuing in the same house till 1842, when he as suddenly made his exit, and has not since been heard of. Having tracked his name downwards through the Edinburgh Directories till the latter date,

we were simple enough to believe he died at 22 Queen Street, and that such fact would be found duly announced in the newspaper obituaries; but not so—and not even an advertisement of the sale of his extensive collection of books could be traced in reward of our search. The late Dr. Hill Burton had evidently pursued the same search before us, for in one of the chapters of his diverting volume called *The Book Hunter*, he makes the following observations regarding the mysterious disappearance of this man and his treasures:—“What became of the chaotic mass of literature he had brought together no one knew! It was supposed to be congenial to his nature to have made a great bonfire of it before he left the world; but a little consideration showed such a feat to be impossible—books may be consumed in detail by extraneous assistance, but it is a curious fact that, combustible as paper is, books won't burn! If you doubt this, pitch that folio Swammerdam or Puffendorf into a good rousing fire, and mark the result. No—it is probable that, stowed away in some forgotten repository, these miscellaneous relics still remain; for, ignorant as the monster was, he had an instinct for knowing what other people wanted, and was enabled to snatch rare and curious volumes from the grasp of systematic collectors. It was his great glory to get hold of a unique book and shut it up. There were known to be just two copies of a spare quarto called '*Rout upon Rout, or the Rabblers Rabbled*, by Felix Nixon, Gent.' He possessed one copy; the other, by indomitable perseverance, he also got hold of, and then his heart was glad within him. An accomplished scholar who was desirous to complete an epoch in literary history on which that book threw some light, waited on him, and besought him to vouchsafe a sight of it, if but for a few minutes, and the request was refused. 'I might as well (said the scholar in relating the circumstance) ask him to make me a present of his brains and reputation!'"

Bindon Blood was known to book-collectors by many a hard name, such as "The Vampire, the Dragon," etc. According to the authority above quoted, he was an Irish absentee, or more correctly, a refugee, for he had made himself so odious on his ample estate, that he could not live there. How on earth he should have taken to book collecting is one of those mysteries which are inscrutable among the many that surround the diagnosis of bibliomania. His making use of the books by reading them may be set aside as out of the question; he was never even known to indulge in that fondling and complacent examination of their exterior

and general condition which seems to afford the highest gratification to the more refined class of book-hunters. Nor did he luxuriate in the collective pride—like that of King David when he numbered the people—of beholding how his volumes increased in multitude, and ranged with one another, like troops of the line, along an ample area of book-shelves. His collection—if it deserved the name—was piled in great heaps in garrets, cellars, and warerooms, like unsorted goods. They were accumulated, in fact, not so much that the owner might have them as that other people might *not* have them. Grose, in his *Olio*, tells of a collector who used to purchase scarce prints at high prices in order to destroy them, and thereby make his own duplicates of the same still more scarce and valuable. Some such feeling must have existed in the heart of this Irishman. Imagine the consternation created in a small circle of collectors by the sudden alighting among them of a *helluo librorum* with such propensities, armed with illimitable means, enabling him to desolate the land like some fiery dragon! But misery like that could not endure for ever. It had long been a wonder how such an ignorant bloodsucker acquired his knowledge of the marketable value of the books he bade for and secured at auctions. It was at length observed that his practice was to ensconce himself in auction-rooms in positions where he could quietly watch the biddings of those who were held in high reputation for knowledge in that peculiar currency. As the contest betwixt two or more of these became critical, he would cut in and, by bold bidding, carry off the prize. Practice like that, frequently repeated, at length revealed the chinks in the monster's armour. It was discovered that he was assailable and penetrable; and a combination was accordingly arranged for punishing the tyrant. Warily and cautiously the plot was unfolded in the earlier stages, but unerringly it progressed, till the bloody scourge was at length routed off the field. The uninitiated began to observe that he was degenerating by degrees in the rank of his purchases, and, becoming utterly reckless, buying at the sublimest prices common works of ordinary literature to be found in every book-shop. Auctioneers were surprised at the gradual change coming over the book-market, and a few fortunate people obtained high prices for articles that they were told to expect nothing for. But the farce at length came to a close: whether or not the Vampire found out that he had been beaten at his own weapon it is needless to inquire; but the devouring monster disappeared as mysteriously as he had come.

In relation to the date of this remarkable man's death, it has just come to our notice that in a list of Members of the Abbotsford Club, compiled by the late accurate David Laing, the name of "Bindon Blood," without any address, is given as one of the fraternity "admitted in 1833—died in 1855." The likelihood, therefore, is that he returned to his native isle in 1842, whence his subscriptions would be remitted down to the time stated by Mr. Laing as that of his demise. His name, as well as that of the artist who executed these graphic delineations of "modern Athenians," appears in the original list of subscribers to *Kay's Edinburgh Characters*, as published by Mr. Hugh Paton in 1837.



N<sup>o</sup>. 4.

Robert Thomson.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Robert Hunter.

Edinburgh, 1839



PLATE IV.—A.D. 1846.

ROBERT THOMSON, ESQ., SHERIFF OF CAITHNESS.

ROBERT HUNTER, ESQ., SHERIFF OF BUTE AND DUMBARTON.

THESE two advocates are well remembered by their junior legal brethren as constant associates during a long succession of years, till Death stepped in and made the inevitable separation. Within the parade-ground of the Parliament House, so soon as the eye alighted on one of them, the seeker rightly concluded that the other was close at hand ; and hence the classic byname of "Castor and Pollux" was bestowed on the attached pair. This was probably the artist's reason for the present exceptional instance of depicting the one following close in the wake of his fellow, instead of each facing the other.

ROBERT THOMSON, advocate, born about the year 1790, was called to the Bar in 1812. He distinguished himself as the author of a treatise on Bills of Exchange, which was long, and perhaps still is, regarded as *authoritative*. The riding-switch in his hand is an indication that he preferred riding on horseback to the ordinary mode of locomotion ; but so peculiar was his physical construction, that as an equestrian he never was qualified, like Hotspur,

"To witch the world with noble horsemanship."

It even so happens that the only anecdote that has reached us concerning him is specially connected with his awkwardness in that art, although sufficiently illustrative of his native politeness. Riding one day along a somewhat rough road his horse happened to stumble, and down the rider fell, yet fortunately alighting on a softer part of his body than his cranium, when a kindly neighbour ran forward to his aid, sympathisingly asking if he had sustained any injury. "Injury!" said the Sheriff, still seated on the ground and stretching out his arm for a lift up, "no injury at all, I assure you! indeed, quite the reverse, sir, quite the reverse!"

His death happened in the year 1857—fourteen years prior to the exit of his brother-luminary—but the exact date we have not been able to ascertain. His house was No. 70 Great King Street.

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ROBERT HUNTER, advocate, born in 1791, was called to the Bar in 1814, and, like his companion in the etching, became the author of a professional treatise which we believe is still held in repute as an authority on the subject discussed, namely, *The Law of Landlord and Tenant*. His first appointment was to the Sheriffship of Buteshire, and some years afterwards he became Sheriff of Dumbartonshire also. That conjoined jurisdiction he exercised till his death, which happened at his house, No. 67 Northumberland Street, on 23d December 1871, when he had reached the age of eighty.





175.

Rev. Patrick Clason.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Rev. Robert Gordon.

*Edinburgh, 1830.*



PLATE V.—A.D. 1839.

REV. DR. CLASON, BUCCLEUCH STREET CHAPEL.

REV. ROBERT GORDON, D.D., HIGH CHURCH.

HERE we have, according to the artist's fancy for contrasts, two well-remembered ministers of the old Establishment—a fat one and a lean—brought together in earnest conversation upon some topic deeply interesting to both. The likenesses are very striking, the individual expression and attitude of each being in the truest keeping of character. Both were transferred from country parishes, and planted in "Chapels of Ease," as they were then termed, in connection with the overgrown parish of St. Cuthbert's in Edinburgh. Both were then just thirty-five years old, and although neither of them were formed by nature to be "men of strife," both in due time identified themselves with the great "Non-Intrusion" movement of the period, and now occupy their own peculiar niches in the temple of "Disruption Worthies." There was a difference of just three years in their respective ages;—Clason, the junior minister, survived the other by thirteen years, and, oddly enough, was succeeded in his pastorate by a son of Dr. Gordon, just as, more than thirty years before, he himself had succeeded that son's father in the oversight of the original flock.

An outline of the career of the REV. PATRICK CLASON, D.D., is thus given in Scot's *Fasti*:—"On 16th April 1824 he was promoted from Carmunnock to St. Cuthbert's Chapel of Ease, Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh. Had D.D. conferred by the Univ. of Glasgow in 1836. He adhered to the Non-Intrusion party, and left the Establishment in May 1843. At the first meeting of the Free General Assembly he was elected joint-clerk, and was honoured with the Moderatorship in that of 18th May 1848. He published a few pamphlets." A tablet on the north

wall of the Grange Cemetery, towards the west end thereof, records that his elder brother, "Andrew Clason, Esq., of Hallyards, W.S. (born 26th April 1787), died, aged 63, on 23d September 1850;" and regarding himself it notes that he was "born 13th October 1789, and died 30th July 1868.

He was born within the manse of Dalziel on the Clyde, near Hamilton, of which parish his father was minister. He was the youngest of a family of three sons and two daughters, and the father having been afterwards translated to the parish of Logie, near Stirling, Patrick in course of time elected the Gospel ministry as his future calling, and was educated accordingly, first at Glasgow College, and thereafter at Edinburgh University. In 1811 he was duly licensed as a preacher, and after four years of probationership was ordained minister of Carmunnock, a quiet locality in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, where he laboured and further studied in the line of his profession for nine years. The chief interest in Dr. Clason's life lies in his association with the Free Church of a later period, and his appointment in 1824 as one of the Edinburgh ministers naturally led to that connection in course of time. That he was not without scholarly attainments is evinced by the array of testimonials in his behalf when in 1830 he was a candidate for the Chair of Divinity at St. Andrews, and although he did not succeed in that application he was, not long thereafter, as we have seen, honoured with the degree of D.D. by the University of Glasgow. At the Disruption crisis nearly his whole flock in Buccleuch Street Chapel—which some years before had been raised to the dignity of a *quoad sacra* church—adhered to their pastor, and worshipped with him in a low-roofed building hurried up at the east end of Buccleuch Place until the present substantial fabric was erected. The temporary structure has been long removed, and the new church is dignified with an imposing spire, which frowns into insignificance the original dwarfish tabernacle where first Dr. Gordon, and then Dr. Clason for nineteen years following, proclaimed the Gospel, and thumped the "drum ecclesiastic."

Dr. Clason's portly and venerable form at the Clerk's bar of the Free General Assembly will be long held in remembrance by the younger frequenters of that Hall, and more especially the peculiar grace and tenderness of his reading the usual "Bible portion" at the opening diets. There must have been some intrinsic value in the man who, in those early days of the Assembly's strength, was voted into the Moderator's Chair on its fifth anniversary, involving as this did the necessity of providing an

*interim* clerk to perform his own stated work in the House. Again in 1864, on the occasion of his return, at the age of seventy-five years, from a satisfactory fulfilment of an important commission to visit the Mediterranean Stations of the Free Church, the General Assembly chose him to be their Moderator for the second time, while his duties at the Clerk's table were performed by Dr. Wood. His jolly and becoming deportment when equipped in the antique Court-dress of the Moderator attracted much admiring observation: and still for three or four years longer was he spared to take his accustomed position during the annual gatherings of the Assembly. His death took place somewhat suddenly at the close of July 1868, just after his return from a summer trip into Wales on a visit to a relative there. His dwelling-place, as far back as we can remember, and we think down to the date of his demise, was Boroughloch House, East Meadows, now incorporated with Melvin's brewery premises, from which he latterly removed to No. 22 George Square.

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Few ministers of Edinburgh, either before or since the great Secession of 1843, were more respected, or possessed more influence, in their day than the REV. ROBERT GORDON, D.D. He was born at Glencairn in Dumfriesshire, in 1786. After being licensed as a preacher he became assistant, in the mathematical department, to the Rector of Perth Academy, and while there, his gifts and amiable manners becoming known to Lord Gray of Kinfauns, he was presented to the pastorship of the parish so called in 1816. That little paradise of situation he left in February 1821, in consequence of being "promoted" to the small Chapel of Ease in our city, above described as that in which Dr. Clason encamped three years thereafter. Whilst there he published, in 1823, a sermon on "The Duty of Searching the Scriptures," in acknowledgment of which, we presume, the University of Aberdeen conferred on him the degree of D.D. He was further "promoted" in 1824 to the pastorate of another Chapel of Ease in Clerk Street, Newington, while Mr. Clason, as we have already seen, was appointed his successor in Buccleuch Street. Dr. Gordon, however, was soon called on to vacate his new pulpit for that of one of the principal churches in the city—the New North, or Haddo's Hole Kirk—which assembled in a part of St. Giles' Cathedral, and there (except while it was under repair) he ministered from 1825 to 1830, when he was appointed colleague of Principal Baird in the High Church. In the

former year he had published a second volume of sermons, and in course of the remaining four contributed to Brewster's *Edinburgh Encyclopædia* the articles Euclid, Geography, and Meteorology. Hew Scot in his *Fasti* pays tribute to the high order of scientific talent displayed by Dr. Gordon in early life, and records that he invented a self-registering hygrometer. In 1841 he was honoured with the Moderatorship of the General Assembly, and during that stormy period, although he withheld from leadership in the movements of the Church, he was a sincere believer in the righteousness of its contendings, and his public utterances had no uncertain sound in favour of the good cause. He took a special interest in what is known as "the Lethendy case," wherein Clark, the presentee to a charge near Dunkeld, was refused by the congregation, who preferred another applicant named Kessen, and whose appointment the patron finally sanctioned. Clark went into the Court of Session, founding on his presentation, and the Court issued an interdict forbidding the Presbytery to induct Kessen. The Church resolved that even although Clark's right to the stipend might be secured to him, he should not be allowed to become the pastor of Lethendy against the will of the flock. The supreme authority of the Church acting within *its own legitimate sphere*, as was generally held, ordered Kessen to be inducted in the teeth of the Court of Session's interdict. This led to the Presbytery of Lethendy being summoned before the Session Lords to answer for breach of interdict, and consequent "contempt of Court." Dr. Gordon, as a voluntary advocate for the accused brethren, appeared in Court along with them, and pleaded in their defence. The result is now a matter of history, and on that point we shall only quote the private sentiments of one of the judges—Lord Cockburn:—"This is a second deep cut into the nervous system of the Church, for if we can order a Presbytery *not* to induct, I don't see that we are without the power *to bid it induct*. After this, where is the peculiar power of the Church?"

Dr. Gordon, along with Dr. Chalmers, Dr. Welsh, and other heroic ministers of the Church of Scotland, headed the memorable procession of 18th May 1843 from George Street to the temporary new Assembly Hall at Canonmills, and when the vast gathering was at length arranged into calmness, Dr. Gordon broke the silence with an observation which was taken up and adopted by succeeding speakers as the text of their deliberations:—"I now feel myself a free and an honest man." His own sacrifice, through the step he had that day taken, was not the smallest among the

many that were nobly made on that occasion. As minister of the High Church he surrendered his salary of £600, and also £300 as clerk of the Ministers' Widows' Fund.

He survived the Disruption rather more than ten years, and there is no ground for supposing he was ever dissatisfied with his change of position or circumstances. As minister of the Free High Church his influence and respectability continued as extensive and as high as formerly, and his discourses were prepared with the same extraordinary care, and delivered in the same peculiarly impressive manner. His death occurred at his house, No. 14 Northumberland Street, on 21st October 1853; and very large and imposing was the public attendance when his remains were conveyed to the family tomb at East Preston Street, Newington. In the following year two additional volumes of discourses appeared on the subject of the prophecies relating to the Messiah, the whole series being published in a uniform style, under the heading—*Christ as made known to the Ancient Church.*

The residence of Dr. Gordon during the earlier period of his citizenship here was at 12 Gilmore Place, and thereafter at the west end of Torphichen Street. Many a summer Sunday at eventide we have observed him walking westwards by Donaldson's Hospital and Coltbridge in solemn discourse with his other self, the present Robert Gordon, minister of Free Buccleuch Street Church, whose voice and manner so strongly recall the vanished form of his venerated father.







N<sup>o</sup>. 6.

John Jeffrey.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Charles Kilpatrick Sharpe.

*Edinburgh, 1839.*



PLATE VI.—A.D. 1839.

JOHN JEFFREY, ESQ.

CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE, ESQ.

THE first of these buckish-looking old gentlemen was a younger and only brother of the distinguished Francis Jeffrey, who at the date of the etching had been five years on the Judicial bench as "Lord Jeffrey." John had passed the earlier years of his mature life in America, as a New York merchant, and about the year 1810 returned to spend the remainder of his days in his native city. It does not appear that he engaged in any trade or profession here, so we may assume he had acquired a competency. In his brother's memoirs we are informed that John's wife died in New York in 1806; if so, he must have entered into a second matrimonial alliance after his return, for the following inscription is on his headstone in Greyfriars Churchyard:—

"Sacred to the memory of John Jeffrey, Esquire, who was born in Edinburgh 25th March 1775, and died there 3d July 1848; and of his wife, Elizabeth Helen Hunter, daughter of the Rev. James Hunter, LL.D., Professor of Logic in the University of St. Andrews. She was born 27th June 1798, and died 8th September 1824."

We may here observe that as Francis Jeffrey came into the world about eighteen months before his brother, so did he continue therein for a like period after his departure, and was privileged to lay his remains close to the spot where nearly half a century before he had interred his own first wife and child, whose monumental tablet there still records the circumstance.

Very little indeed is known or remembered regarding the subject of this notice, beyond the fact that from 1811 downwards he was a member of "The Friday Club," instituted about 1804 by the younger Whig advocates of the time; and the Edinburgh Directory points out that he resided at No. 11 Hill Street, and finally at 2 Charlotte Square.

Marian, the youngest sister of these brothers, became the wife of Dr. Thomas Brown, a successful physician in Glasgow, who acquired the pleasantly-situated little estate of Langfyne, on the Irvine Water, near Newmilns. Some few years ago Miss Brown of Langfyne erected and endowed a handsome Institute, with reading and recreation rooms, for the benefit of the working population of that locality.

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The second figure on the plate is that of the celebrated antiquary and virtuoso, CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE, who at the date of the sketch would be fifty-eight years old. Although represented here in conversation with a brother of Jeffrey, he by no means belonged to the coterie who were associated with the production of the *Edinburgh Review*. At the same time, high Tory as he was, it is pleasant to know that he lived on terms of friendly intercourse with Sir James Gibson-Craig, a leading hero of the opposite side of politics, and had been a kindly supporter of the persecuted Queen Caroline, in the days when Brougham did champion-work in her behalf.

He was born at Hoddam Castle, in Annandale, Dumfriesshire, on 15th May 1781, the third son of Charles Sharpe of Hoddam, by Eleanora, youngest daughter of John Renton of Lammerton. His father, a younger brother of Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick, Bart., of Closeburn, assumed the name SHARPE along with the estate of Hoddam in 1769, at the death of Matthew Sharpe of Hoddam, a bachelor grand-uncle of his mother, in terms of his settlement. Thus, on the father's side, he boasted that his progenitor was the fearless knight whose telling thrust "made sikker" what the hesitancy of King Bruce failed to accomplish, when the Red Cumyn was despatched at Dumfries; and also, that he was related to the royal house of Stuart through one of his ancestors, the Earl of Mar. In like manner, on the maternal side, he could prove descent from the Eglinton family, and proudly quoted the remarks of Smollett respecting the maiden charms of his own mother, who sprang from that stock. The lustre he assumed to be derived from these connections no doubt largely contributed to mould the predilections of the future antiquary. The name "Sharpe" was very well, but he never for a moment allowed the ancestral glories of the Kirkpatricks to pass from his memory, and even took offence if any correspondent, in addressing him, omitted the central "K" from his name.

After attending one session at the University of Edinburgh, he removed in 1798 to Christ Church, Oxford, continuing there till June 1806, when he obtained his degree of M.A. Meanwhile his mind had been diverted from the original intention of ecclesiastical pursuits in favour of poetry, artistic sketching, and antiquarian research, embracing the study of pedigree, in which he soon became an adept. In 1803 he had formed an acquaintance with Walter Scott, who included in his third volume of *Border Minstrelsy* a few of his ballad pieces. In 1807 he published on his own account a volume of *Metrical Legends and Poems*, and executed in 1808 the much-admired drawing (still preserved at Abbotsford) of "Queen Elizabeth dancing 'high and disposedly' before James Melville, the Scottish envoy." A similarly characteristic drawing of "The Marriage of Muckle-mou'd Meg" was produced in 1812, and likewise presented to Scott.

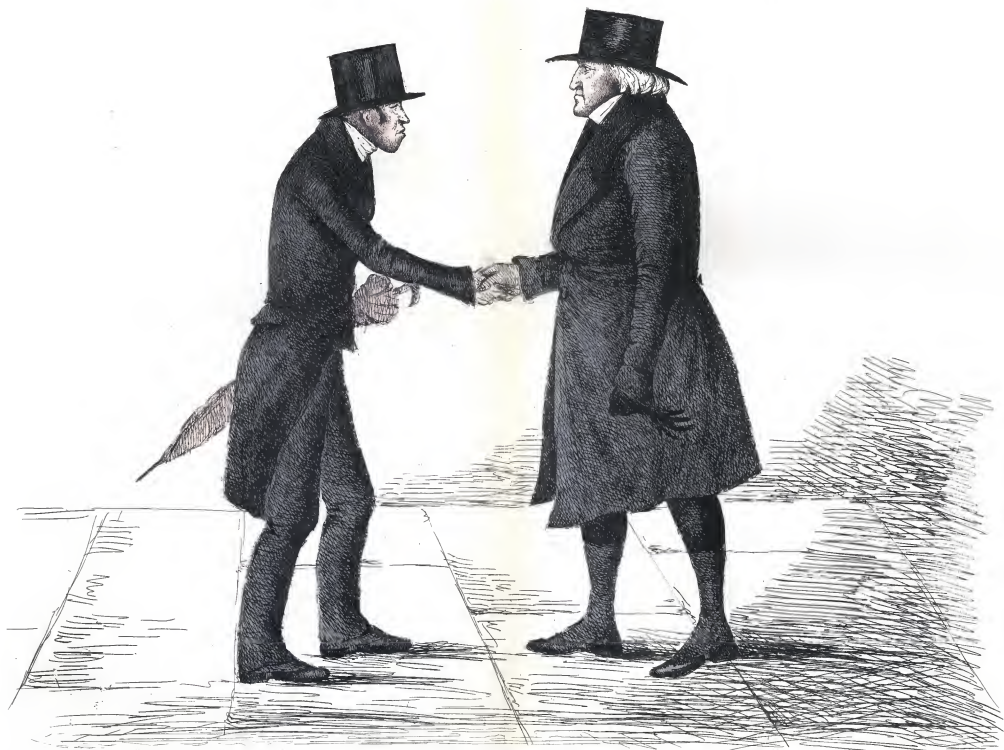
The death of his father in 1813, and consequent removal of his mother to Edinburgh, brought him to the resolution of adopting that city as a permanent place of residence. For fully twenty years his house was at 93 Princes Street, and there his first etching on copper was executed in 1813. His elaborate edition of Kirkton's *History of the Church of Scotland* was published in 1817. In that production he poured out in the form of notes as much pungent wit and curious learning as alone might form an interesting book, if systematically arranged. Besides continually adding to the stock of his characteristic drawings and etchings, he edited from time to time numerous antiquarian works, of which we have not space to give a complete list. His "Ballad Book," inscribed to Sir Walter Scott as "a fourth volume of the *Border Minstrelsy*," was produced in 1823. In 1828 he brought out a reprint of Maitland's *History of the House of Seytoun*, with notes; and in 1836 edited a volume of music by the Earl of Kelly. That work was dedicated to his beloved mother, who, however, died in the same or following year. The house in Princes Street was then abandoned, and he removed to the Old Town, where he resided for a few years in a detached mansion in West Nicolson Street, railed off from the common thoroughfare, and having a daisy-dappled green plot in front. His next and last remove was to 28 Drummond Place, where he continued till his death on 17th March 1851, and his remains were interred in the family mausoleum at Hoddam.

The long residence of Mr. C. K. Sharpe in this city, taken in connection with his eccentric ways and peculiar exterior, fairly earned for him

the title to rank as one of Crombie's "Modern Athenians." It was next to impossible to obtain access to his house for an interview with him on whatever business till after mid-day, for he did not believe in early rising. The interior was quite a museum of antiquities—old cabinets, ancient stone-carvings, antique china, and nicknacks of every kind. The walls were well covered with historical portraits, and along with these appeared several of the frail beauties of the Court of King Charles II. and later monarchs—each of them furnishing a topic of warmly-coloured anecdote.

As he stole noiselessly along the streets, dressed in a blue surtout of unusual length, a white neckcloth broad and voluminous, a pair of thin-soled shoes, with light-coloured thread or silk stockings, his auburn wig falling in full waves round his head and nearly to his eyes, and grasping his umbrella, with (not unfrequently) an old book or some mysterious-looking parcel under his arm, he was indeed the "observed of all observers." The artist has not omitted the umbrella here—for in truth our subject never went abroad without such an appendage. Of these he possessed two, both of green silk; the one he termed "Noah's Ark," from its prodigious circumference when opened out; it was adapted for use in foul weather, to ensure escape from the deluge, should it come; while the other, of lighter construction, was called the "water-lily," suitable either as a parasol in sultry sunshine, or for warding off a passing shower.

Robert Chambers, in his *Traditions* (1825), styled him "The Scottish Walpole." Sir Walter Scott also, in his Diary of same year (Nov. 20), made the same observation, thus:—"My idea is that C. K. S., with his oddities, tastes, satire, and high aristocratic feelings, resembles Horace Walpole—perhaps his person also—in a general way."



A<sup>o</sup> 7.

Rev John Hunter.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Prof. Alexander Brunton.

*Edinburgh, 1839.*





PLATE VII.—A.D. 1839.

REV. JOHN HUNTER, M.A., OF THE TRON CHURCH.

REV. DR. BRUNTON, HIS COLLEAGUE, PROFESSOR OF HEBREW, ETC.

A DECIDED contrast is observable in the physiognomy and general contour of the pastoral colleagues here represented in friendly handshaking together. They were true friends nevertheless, and worked in Christian unity during the twenty-one years they laboured together in the same parish. Dr. Brunton was always a person of fine, though somewhat pompous, presence, whilst the external aspect of his later colleague, Mr. Hunter, was far from prepossessing. The latter, however, was not without moral and intellectual qualifications suitable to his office, and was "come of a good stock."

The REV. JOHN HUNTER was born in Edinburgh, the youngest son of the Rev. Andrew Hunter, D.D., Professor of Divinity in the University there, and also one of the ministers of the Tron Church, at whose death, in 1809, Dr. Brunton was appointed his successor. The mother of our subject was Marion Shaw, eldest daughter of William, sixth Lord Napier, and the eldest son of the marriage was a member of the Faculty of Advocates, who succeeded to his father's estate in Dumfriesshire, called Barjarg, and changed his surname to Arundel in consequence of a marriage alliance with a dame of noble blood so called. John Hunter, having been educated for the Church, was ordained minister of Swinton, in Berwickshire, at the age of twenty-six, where he continued till October 1832, when, after a legal contest with the Kirk-Session, who were averse to receive him, he was admitted to the Tron Church, by decision of the House of Lords, as assistant and successor to Dr. Simpson, his late father's colleague.

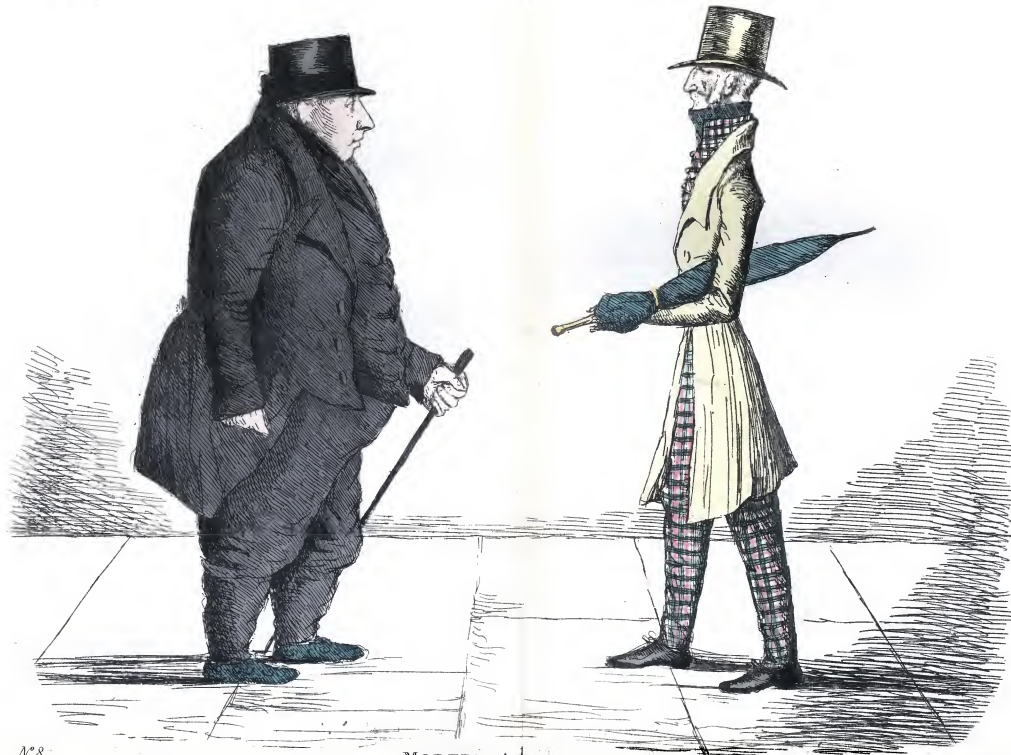
He had married, in July 1817, Caroline, daughter of A. Mitchelson, Esq., of Middleton, who survived him without issue. At the Disruption neither he nor his colleague sympathised with the Non-Intrusion party,

and remained in the "Auld Kirk," content to be ranked as part of the despised *residuum*. The University of Edinburgh, however, in 1847, honoured Mr. Hunter with the degree of D.D., although he seems to have published little or nothing else than a volume of sermons, which appeared in 1837. After a brief illness he died at his house, No. 9 Regent Terrace, on 21st June 1866, aged seventy-eight, and a tablet on the west wall of the Grange Cemetery marks where his remains were deposited.

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The REV. ALEXANDER BRUNTON, D.D., was more of a public character within the city than his retiring colleague. His permanent residence in Edinburgh dated from September 1803, when he was translated from Bolton, in East Lothian, to the parish church of New Greyfriars. A volunteer corps called the "Loyal Edinburgh Spearmen," was embodied in 1805, and their colours were formally presented in Heriot's Green, when Mr. Brunton, as chaplain to the regiment, consecrated them by an impressive prayer. On 23d November 1809 he was admitted to the Tron Church as successor to Dr. Hunter, as above noted, and, in 1813, besides having the degree of D.D. conferred on him by the University, he was appointed Professor of Hebrew and other Oriental languages. He was elected Moderator of the General Assembly in May 1823, and, from time to time, was very serviceable in public ceremonies when extra display or imposing solemnities were deemed requisite. His skill also in elegant composition, whether in dead or existing languages, caused him to be resorted to when fine inscriptions were wanted for foundation-stones or monumental tablets. An excellent example of the latter is found on the mural tablet in Heriot's Hospital, erected by the Governors to record the virtues of Treasurer Denham, who died in office in 1822.

Among his various publications were *Sketches of Hebrew and Chaldee Grammar*, in 1814; *Outlines of Persian Grammar, with Extracts*, 1822; and *Forms for Public Worship in the Church of Scotland*, 1848. In 1798 he had married Mary, the daughter of Colonel Balfour of Elwick, in Orkney, who afterwards distinguished herself as the authoress of three novels, which were very popular among a large class of readers. These were *Self-Control*, produced in 1811; *Discipline*, in 1814; and *Emeline*, published after her death in 1818. Dr. Brunton survived till February 1854, when eighty-one years of age. He died on the ninth of that month at Jordonstone House, Perthshire.



N<sup>o</sup>. 8.

John Irvine.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Capt. Hugo Arnot.

Edinburgh, 1830.



PLATE VIII.—A.D. 1837.

JOHN R. IRVING, ESQ., OF BONSHAW, ADVOCATE.

CAPTAIN HUGO ARNOT, OF BALCORMO.

IT may seem almost incredible, though altogether true, that the creeping figure of "too solid flesh," so sadly restricted in locomotion, seen in the left side of the print, was in former days Professor of Civil Law in the University of Edinburgh. He passed as an advocate in 1793, and in the Edinburgh Almanac of 1805 his name and that of John Wylde, advocate, are given as joint-professors of Civil Law in the roll of University teachers. Bonshaw is in the neighbourhood of Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, if we are to be guided by one of Burns's genuine but little-known songs entitled "The Trogger;" but it must be a very small estate, for the name "Irving of Bonshaw" is not found on the "Roll of Certified Freeholders" in any of the published lists of those days.

The figure of this gentleman, as represented in the etching, must be familiar to some of our readers who were not altogether juvenile about half a century ago, especially if they were "south-siders." In searching the Edinburgh Directories from 1830 downwards, we find his name inserted with full designation, as residing at "1 Henry Place," then reckoned a somewhat genteel new street, in the proximity of the "Castle o' Clouts" at St. Leonards. That he had been at a former period of his life a married man and not childless, is proved by the following obituary intimations:—"January 1837. On board H.M.S. *Canopus*, on 23d inst., George William Irving, lieutenant, R.M., son to John Robert Irving, Esq., of Bonshaw, advocate." "July 2, 1847. At Port Philip, New So. Wales, aged 40, Janet Margaret, wife of John Winter, Esq., and daughter of the late John R. Irving, Esq. of Bonshaw, Dumfriesshire, N.B." A further obituary notice in October 1838 seems to indicate that he had a sister who kept house for him at Henry Place, who predeceased him by eight

months. She is there designated "Mrs. Christian Irving, daughter of the deceased William Irving, Esq., of Bonshaw."

Thus we find the subject here so depressingly depicted in Mr. Crombie's *tableaux* of "Modern Athenians" was a gentleman of family and of education. His death is announced in the obituary list of the *Scotsman* as having taken place "at Edinburgh on 18th June 1839;" and we suspect, from the circumstance of no house address being given, that the unfortunate gentleman may have died in the Royal Infirmary.

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The name of "Capt. HUGO ARNOT of Balcormo" appears on the "Roll of Certified Freeholders" of the county of Fife in 1811, and at later dates; but beyond finding his death announced in the newspapers as having occurred "at Edinburgh on May 9, 1838," we have not recovered any documentary information concerning him. He has here a fine military deportment and gentlemanly bearing, with a keen, yet most truthful eye in his head; and would have been a good artist's model for a picture of "Don Quixote." There can be no doubt that while he was the namesake, he must also have been the lineal or collateral representative of Hugo Arnot of Balcormo, advocate, who figures so frequently among Kay's *Portraits and Caricature Etchings*. If the latter, who died in November 1786, at the age of thirty-six, had been a married man (and there is no mention in the letterpress of that work that such was the case), the subject before us might well be his son; but we suspect he was merely the nephew of the author of *An Essay on Nothing*, and historian of Edinburgh. It will be recollected that the Hugo of Kay was really the son of a Leith merchant named Pollock, and that the name "Arnot" and the Fifeshire estate were derived through his mother's family.

The law lists show that a young advocate named Hugo Arnot was called to the Bar in 1820, who was recently alive. He may have been a son of our present subject.



N<sup>o</sup>. 9.

Robert Thomson.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Alexander Douglas.

*Edinburgh, 1839.*





PLATE IX.—A.D. 1840.

ROBERT THOMSON, ESQ., ROYAL EXCHANGE.

ALEXANDER DOUGLAS, W.S.

THE first of these portly and defiant-looking Athenians was an importer of Irish linen, who had been long familiarly known in the city as a merchant of great enterprise, activity, and intelligence. Being a professed Whig, he was elected "First Bailie" on the formation of the new Town Council after the Reform Bill passed; and in that and several offices which he held, as Master of the Merchant Company, Dean of Guild, etc., took an active share in public affairs. He was a devout Sabbatarian, as was made evident by the side he took in the debates of the Merchant Company on the question of running Sunday trains, when the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway was about to be opened early in 1842. His view of the perpetual obligation of the fourth commandment was very successfully combated by Mr. Adam Black, and on grounds purely Scriptural. It is quite probable that if Mr. Thomson's life had been spared for a few years longer, he would have been nominated for the provostship, for he had a goodly presence, and could deliver his remarks with some freedom.

His house was at 6 Buccleuch Place, where his wife, Elizabeth Forsyth or Thomson, predeceased him in March 1842. His own death was somewhat sudden; for he had scarcely been missed from the streets, when his death was announced as having taken place on 26th February 1843.

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ALEXANDER DOUGLAS, Esq., W.S., of 17 Drummond Place, was also distinguished for his vigorous activity in public matters, besides being the founder of an excellent business in his own profession. He was not so punctilious in the matter of outward raiment as his companion in the

etching—indeed, he was rather slovenly in that respect ; yet be it known, that while he had the independence to venture out with soiled and crumpled ruffles, and occasionally a bashed hat, his character and conduct were stainless, and his integrity complete.

This gentleman was a son of Dr. Douglas, a respected medical practitioner in Kelso, and born in June 1780. He passed as a W.S. in Edinburgh in 1808, of which society he was eventually appointed Fiscal. For many years he was a Commissioner of Police of the city, a director of the Water Company, and a trustee (afterwards clerk) for the city creditors. He was a zealous Conservative in politics, a stout supporter of the Church of Scotland, and one of the most active promoters of the Princes Street Gardens ; indeed, he was generally conspicuous in most works of public improvement. He died at the age of seventy-one, on 1st July 1851. His widow, Janet H. Bow or Douglas, survived him upwards of five years, and both were interred in Greyfriars Churchyard.



N<sup>o</sup>. 10.

James Jollie.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Robert Sym.

Edinburgh, 1839.



PLATE X.—A.D. 1840.

JAMES JOLLIE, ESQ., W.S., CLERK TO THE MERCHANT COMPANY.

ROBERT SYM, ESQ., W.S., 20 GEORGE SQUARE.

THE names of these two professional compeers, for a considerable time prior to their disappearance, stood at the head of the roll of Writers to the Signet, as the oldest living members. Besides that circumstance they were (along with Sir James Gibson-Craig) the tallest and grandest-looking men in the fraternity. At the same time, there were some points of contrast between Mr. Sym and Mr. Jollie which the artist has not lost sight of. The fine fresh complexion of Mr. Sym wreathed amid snowy locks, crowning a stately figure of the most shapely proportions, dressed in light-coloured attire, form a striking contrast to the figure opposite, with his curled wig of jet black, black gloves, and black everything except the yellow bamboo cane in his hand. The face of Mr. Jollie, too, intelligent and well-formed though it be, is of that quizzical cockatoo-type, as dissimilar as may be to the elegant features and mild expression of his companion in the picture.

Mr. JAMES JOLLIE, of the firm of James and Walter Jollie, W.S., had no doubt a history which would read well if we could only obtain materials for setting it up. Born in 1757, he passed as a W.S. in 1783, and about the commencement of this century held appointments of Commissioner in that Society, Clerk to the Merchant Company, Clerk to Gillespie's Hospital, and was more or less connected with other public institutions in the city. An able and a trusty man of business, we find that when Sir Walter Scott's sudden reverses of fortune came in January 1826, Mr. James Jollie was one of three trustees to whom he assigned his whole property for behoof of his creditors. Regarding that matter, Mr. Lockhart recorded the remark that "certainly no gentlemen ever acquitted themselves of such an office in a manner more honourable to themselves, or

more satisfactory to a client and his creditors." Down to the year 1831 Mr. Jollie resided at 6 Duke Street, and thereafter down to 1845, at 26 Abercromby Place. His death took place at the age of eighty-nine, on 30th August 1846, at No. 5 Heriot Row, to which he had removed at Whitsunday preceding. His partner, Walter Jollie (being his son, we suppose), died suddenly in May 1859, at the age of sixty-seven.

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ROBERT SYM, W.S.—the "Timothy Tickler" of his illustrious nephew's *Noctes Ambrosianæ*—was the son of a prosperous Glasgow merchant, and born in 1752. His sister was the mother of Professor John Wilson, and of his brother James Wilson of Woodville, a proficient and an author of repute in natural history. He passed as a W.S. in 1775, but regarding his practice in that profession little or no information has been handed down, yet all accounts concur in describing him as one of the gayest young bucks in the city, and as having retired from business after his father's death secured him in somewhat independent circumstances. The second volume of *Kay's Edinburgh Portraits* contains an etching of him when at the age of thirty-five, dated 1787, the year of Burns's first residence in the city on the occasion of bringing out his "Caledonian Hunt Edition." Mr. Sym is there introduced taking his morning stroll in the Meadow Walk, and dressed in the top style of fashion. Mr. James Paterson, the biographer of *Kay's Portraits*, writing precisely half a century after the date of the print, and while the subject still lived, informed his readers that Mr. Sym "may yet be seen frequenting the accustomed promenade during the early morning hours, when most of our younger citizens are still in bed. His step may not be so stately, nor his carriage so erect, yet the spirit of youth remains; and it is impossible not to recognise in his general bearing and appearance the well-bred beau of fifty years back. The cocked hat, to be sure, has long been superseded by a more modern chapeau, but the coat, vest, and short breeches—composed in summer of nankeen—are of the identical colour and fashion; the stockings too are white, though no longer of silk or thread, as they used to be in the palmy days of his meridian. Throughout life he had continued a bachelor, although, as may well be conceived, he had in earlier days been a gallant of no mean pretensions and in high favour with the ladies. Few have enjoyed a course of uninterrupted good health equal to

Mr. Sym, who has been heard to boast that no medical man had ever felt his pulse, and that he did not remember having ever in his life taken breakfast in bed."

The biographer of Professor Wilson records that within the house in George Square of that genuine old Tory, Mr. Robert Sym, the contributors to *Blackwood's Magazine* had many a merry gathering. One of these contributors—James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd—has written in reference to those gatherings a reminiscence after his own manner which we cannot dispense with in the present notice of Timothy Tickler:—"At a certain hour of the night, our entertainer knew by the longing looks which I cast towards a beloved corner of the dining-room what I was wanting. 'Oh, I beg your pardon, Hogg! I was forgetting,' he would say, and then take out a small gold key that hung by a chain of the same metal to a particular buttonhole, and stalk away as tall as life—open two splendid fiddle-cases, and produce their contents, first the one and then the other, but always keeping the best to himself. I'll never forget with what elated dignity he stood straight up in the middle of that floor and rosined his bow. There was a twist of the lip and an upward beam of the eye that was truly sublime. Then we sat down side by side, and began to play Scottish music in unison. At the end of every tune we took a glass, and still our enthusiasm increased, our energies of execution being redoubled; till ultimately it became not only a complete and well-contested race of fiddlesticks, but a trial of strength to determine which should drown the other. The only feelings short of ecstasy that came across us in these enraptured moments were caused by hearing the laugh and the joke proceeding from our friends at the table, as if no such thrilling strains had been flowing! Sym's indignant eye would for a moment fall on them, but it would instantly retreat upward again in mild resignation!"

The clever etching of Timothy Tickler which Crombie here presents us with was executed five years after the poor Shepherd who penned the above was laid under the turf. The print before us enables us to realise the exactness of that description. We see the "elated dignity" of him who "rosined the bow." We have here the identical "twist of the lip," and recognise the "truly sublime upward beam" of Tickler's eye. On his vest of spotless white we discern even the sparkling links of the chain, reaching to a certain buttonhole, whence hung the "small gold key" which opened the portals of "ecstasy" on that memorable night. Alas!

where are the choice spirits who then assembled at No. 20 George Square? But

“ Be cheerful, sir,  
The revels now are ended ; these our actors,  
As they foretold us, were all spirits, and  
Are melted into air—into thin air.”

Timothy's death happened on 2d April 1845, at the marvellous age of ninety-three. In an hour of revelry some twenty years prior to that eventuality, the wags assembled at Ambrose's composed impromptu requiems for each other, and sang them over their fifth tumbler. The one for Timothy was by no means a Dirge. A verse or two may here be deemed not out of place.

“ Pray for the soul  
Of Timothy Tickler,  
For the Church and the bowl  
A determinate stickler !  
With a pipe in his cheek  
And a goblet before him,  
Every night of the week  
In sæcula sæculorum.

“ Though a W.S.  
And ambitious to thrive,  
He ne'er caus'd distress  
To a creature alive.  
With a pipe in his cheek  
And a goblet before him,  
Every night of the week  
In sæcula sæculorum.

“ Beyond the control  
Of old Nick in particular,  
O cherish the soul  
Of dear Timothy Tickler !  
With a pipe in his cheek,” etc.





*N. II.*

George Sandy.

MODERN ATHENIANS

James Peddie.

*Edinburgh, 1839.*



PLATE XI.—A.D. 1840.

GEORGE SANDY, ESQ. W.S., 3 BUCCLEUCH PLACE.

JAMES PEDIE, ESQ., W.S., OLD BROUGHTON.

THE likenesses are well hit off here, and, as usual, the artist has aimed at producing some interest by bringing together two members of the same profession, of somewhat opposite natures and physical attributes. A ponderous man, with honesty and singleness of purpose beaming from his countenance, is balanced against a smaller though very active limb of the law, whose twinkling eye and pinched-up nose seem familiar with quirks, and whose weighty under-jaw, presided over by a lipless mouth trimmed into an obsequious smirk, is by no means reassuring. Man's physiognomy, however, like that of his supposed primogenitor—the monkey—is made *for*, and not *by* him ; therefore we must accept faces as we find them, and choose our associates by the attractive law of affinities.

Mr. GEORGE SANDY, born about the year 1777, passed as a W.S. in 1798, and very soon thereafter, by his ready handling of the pen, and generally active and methodical habits, commended himself to the notice of the Commissioners of the Society he had recently entered. He was entrusted with the compilation of their first regular Catalogue of Books, which some thirty years previously they had commenced to collect, with the view of forming a library worthy of so important an institution. Mr. Sandy completed his Catalogue and superintended the printing thereof, his Preface bearing date 15th May 1805, and the work forming a goodly quarto volume, highly creditable to the young compiler. The Librarian of the Society at that time was Mr. Macvey Napier, who passed as a W.S. in 1799, and held the office referred to from 1802 till 1837, when he resigned on being appointed a Clerk of Session, and was succeeded by the late Mr. David Laing. Shortly after completing the Catalogue men-

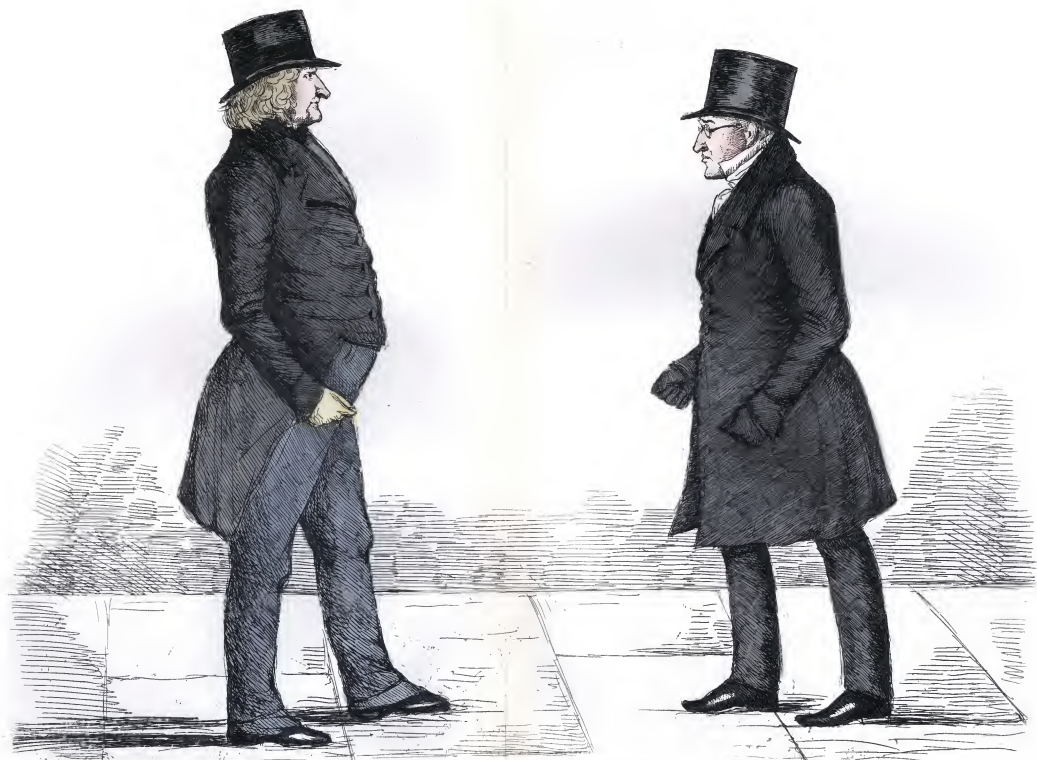
tioned, Mr. Sandy received the appointment of Secretary to the Bank of Scotland, in which capacity he acted for about thirty years.

He died at the age of seventy-six, on 8th April 1853.

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The name of Mr. JAMES PEDIE, W.S., who was born about the year 1791, and passed in 1813, is to be carefully distinguished from that of his namesake in the same profession, Mr. James Peddie, who passed in 1819. In the printed rolls both names are alike spelled with double *d*, and apparently for distinction's sake, our subject adopted the single *d* in spelling his surname, which peculiarity is maintained in the Edinburgh Directories down till his death. On the other hand, the younger *Peddie*, to render the distinction still more obvious, added to his signature the designation "Junior," although, as we believe, no family relationship existed between the two gentlemen. From 1822 downwards through many years our James Pedie resided at 14 Albany Street, and some years prior to his decease, removed to Old Broughton in consequence (it was held) of the other James Peddie taking up his abode at "36" Albany Street.

We are not aware that any representative of our subject is now extant, which observation by no means applies to his professional brother of the double *d*. He died about the age of fifty-three, on 16th July 1844, at his house in Old Broughton. He seems to have led the life of a bachelor, doing the most of his own clerkship, and going his own errands. The only anecdote appertaining to him that has reached us is the following:—One forenoon, during his absence, a country client who only knew him through correspondence called at his house, very desirous for a personal interview with him. "I wonder," said his housekeeper, "that you did not meet him going along the street, for he is not many minutes gone." "I may have met him, I daresay," rejoined the other, "but how was I to know a gentleman I had not seen before?" "Not know Mr. Pedie," replied she, "I thought a' body kenn'd Mr. Pedie. See there!"—holding up a shoe she had been in the act of brushing—"that's Mr. Pedie's *shoe*, and if ye meet a man wha's fit'll fill that shoe—then that's Mr. Pedie!"



N<sup>o</sup> 12.

Prof. John Wilson.

MODERN ATHENIANS

George Joseph Bell.

Edinburgh, 1839.



PLATE XII.—A.D. 1840.

JOHN WILSON, ESQ., PROFESSOR OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY.

GEORGE JOSEPH BELL, ESQ., PROFESSOR OF SCOTS LAW.

TWO Professors in our University, both of consummate genius, are here sketched by Crombie in a masterly style, the likenesses being very striking and suggestive of their respective characteristics. Mr. Bell's physiognomy and manner seem to indicate the retiring modesty of his nature, while of the other, the spectator is constrained to adopt the words of the dramatist—

“ His port I love, 'tis in a proper mood  
To chide the thunder, if at him it rolled.”

The father of JOHN WILSON—the “Christopher North” of *Blackwood's Magazine*, was a thriving manufacturer in Paisley, and his mother was Margaret Sym, sister of Robert Sym, Esq., W.S. (represented in Plate X.), the “Timothy Tickler” of the *Noctes*. Our subject was born on 18th May 1785, the fourth child, but first son of his father's family, and received his higher education, first at Glasgow University, and thereafter at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he gained the Newdegate prize for English versification. After leaving Oxford, he resided from 1807 to 1815 on a little estate which he had been enabled to purchase, called Elleray, on the banks of Lake Windermere in Westmoreland, where he became one of the brilliant company of so-called “Lake-poets;” Wordsworth and Southey being his near neighbours, while De Quincey was a visitor, and ultimately a resident among them. Wilson there made himself known by his larger poems, “The Isle of Palms,” and “The City of the Plague;” and there also—in 1811—he married Miss Jane Penny, one of the *toasts* of the Lake district. His father seems to have died before this date. We hear no more of him; but in connection with a sudden gust of misfortune which soon overtook

Wilson in his little paradise among the lakes, we learn from his biographer, that an uncle, who had been entrusted with the management of his affairs "acted the part of the unjust steward, and by his treachery overwhelmed his nephew in irretrievable loss." This calamity compelled Wilson to leave Elleray in the early part of the year 1815, and take up his residence in Edinburgh, to which his mother and others of the family had removed from Paisley. His three eldest children had been born prior to this reverse of fortune, namely, *John*, in April 1812, *Margaret*, in July 1813, and *Mary*, in August 1814. His kind mother sheltered him, his wife, and little ones in her house at 53 Queen Street, during four years, until his labours becoming somewhat remunerative, he was enabled to rent a neat little house for himself and family at 20 Ann Street, in 1819, which became their residence for seven years. The two younger members of his family were born in the grandmother's house—his son *Blair* in April 1816, and the youngest daughter *Jane Emily* in January 1817. The good old lady, his mother, died in December 1824; it was through her that her son became such a champion of aristocracy, for when she received him into her house in 1815, she playfully addressed him in these words:—"John, if you turn Whig, like some o' thae renegade cubs o' advocates ye niffer wi', this house is nae langer big enough for us baith."

In 1815, with a view to do some kind of honest work by means of which his lost fortunes might be retrieved, he passed as an advocate, and trod the floor of the Parliament House during a few sessions. There he soon formed an intimacy with John Gibson Lockhart, a young literary aspirant nine years his junior, who came to the Bar in the year following. These two kindred spirits were not long in discovering that the practice of the Law was not their proper function, and before the close of the year 1817 circumstances opened a door by entering which they were ushered into a field of active employment in which they were singularly fitted by nature to engage. This was to become the principal contributors to a new monthly magazine of high Tory proclivities which had recently been projected by Mr. William Blackwood, a publisher of great enterprise. Six monthly parts of the work had been issued under somewhat nerveless editorial management, when Wilson and Lockhart undertook to devote their energies and high talents to the adornment and effectiveness of its pages. At that epoch society was divided into two strongly defined opposing parties, composed of "rascally Whigs" on the one side,



and "brow-beating Tories" on the other, according to the stand-point from which they were viewed. In literature and politics the *Edinburgh Review* had been supreme from an early date in the present century, its doctrines being esteemed as oracles by its own party, and not at all relished by the other. Indeed they were becoming insufferably tiresome and distasteful to the Tory portion of mankind, who, until *Blackwood* came forth, had no literary oracle of their own on the north side of the Tweed. Number VII. of that Magazine appeared in October 1817 with several articles from "the Scorpion" (Lockhart) and "the Leopard" (Wilson), which created a vast excitement in those days, and in it also appeared the celebrated "Chaldee Manuscript" which raised such a storm of controversy concerning its mysterious authorship. James Hogg, in his craving for notoriety, managed to sow hints and innuendoes broadcast in every direction, claiming that production as his own, but while its real authors preserved their incognito, Mrs. Wilson, who was a little in the secret, informed her children long afterwards that it was composed at 53 Queen Street amid shouts of exultation; and that one of the verses was contributed by Sir William Hamilton, who was so amused at his own work that he fell from his chair with laughter. In reference to a succeeding number of the Magazine, containing amongst other provoking articles, a communication signed "Nicol Jarvie," a letter from Mrs. Wilson, addressed to her sister in England, bearing date Dec. 18, 1817, has been published, giving a droll account of a *fracas* which had just occurred, and set the city in amusing commotion, arising out of the Jarvie correspondence. A Glasgow man, who is described as "a disgusting, vulgar, conceited writer," had been so much exasperated by Nicol Jarvie's comments upon him, that he came from Glasgow with a horse-whip and laid it liberally over Mr. Blackwood's shoulders as he was quietly entering his own shop door, and made his exit before Mr. B. could recover from the surprise. The assaulted bibliopole thereupon purchased a stout stick, and making his way to the coach office, identified the fellow in the act of taking his seat, to proceed to Glasgow. He dragged the delinquent down, and after administering a sound thrashing with the stick, suffered him to get into the coach and proceed westwards, which he was right fain to do.

In 1820 John Wilson was appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy in our University, on the demise of Dr. Thomas Brown. He met with considerable opposition, but managed to secure twenty-one votes, among

a total of thirty electors, which was considered a proud majority. His fame as a poet had by this time been eclipsed by his reputation for prose-writing; yet great as was his celebrity as a critic and essayist, much dubiety was expressed concerning his qualifications for success as a Teacher of Morals. For upwards of thirty years, however, did Wilson fill that chair with honour to himself and profit to many a successive group of listening scholars in preparation for their after-career; besides whom, from time to time, would appear in his class-room some distinguished occasional visitors to the city, drawn to the students' benches by the fame of the Professor. His manner in the lecture-room, his aspect and style of delivery, it must be confessed, formed no slight enhancement to the native force of his thoughts, which lost nothing by being interpreted by his own deep and changeful voice, and being lighted by the vivid fire of his glowing countenance and bright beaming eye. He often rose into the most noble and impassioned style of oratory, filling his hearers with irresistible ardour and enthusiasm on the subjects discussed.

Before closing this little memoir, we would desire to make it more complete by some reference to his celebrated feats of pedestrianism and wonderful achievements as a devoted angler. Many legends regarding these are afloat, but some of them not very well authenticated; for instance, Thomas Aird's assertion in reference to the Burns festival at Ayr in compliment to the sons of the poet, 6th August 1844, that Professor Wilson had that day walked seventy miles in order to be present! Surely that was an absurd statement, for amid the abounding facilities for travelling at that period, what could be Christopher's motive for so punishing his old shanks? he was then in his fifty-ninth year. We suspect that after the Ettrick Shepherd's death in 1835, and more especially his own beloved wife's death, on 29th March 1837, Christopher threw off his sporting jacket, never to wear it again. His daughter Mary, at any rate, assures us in her Memoir of him that he wore weepers on the cuffs of his coat on her account, which he would never dispense with till his own dust was laid beside hers in the Dean Cemetery. One great pedestrian achievement we shall, however, here recount. It was in 1815—just four years after his marriage, when the loving pair were newly expelled from their sweet home at Elleray. He was desirous to let her see somewhat of the grandeur of the Scottish Highlands; so about the beginning of July he and Mrs. Wilson set out from Edinburgh together on a pedestrian tour through the Western Highlands. How they reached Inverary we

need not inquire, but walking from thence by long stages through all the romantic portions of the district, they reached Glenorchy, and took lodgings for a few days with the schoolmaster there. One morning, at an early hour, Christopher slipped away alone for a day's fishing in Loch Toila, thirteen miles distant ; but alas ! on reaching the loch and unscrewing the butt-end of his fishing-rod, he found that he had left the slender top behind him. What was he to do?—nothing daunted, he retraced his steps to the schoolhouse, breakfasted, made his rod all complete, and back he tramped to Loch Toila. The live-long day he fished round and round the loch and filled a heavy creel ; but that summer day had come to an end ere he bethought him of returning home, confessing to somewhat of weariness. Passing near a farm-house whose occupants he knew, he went in to ask some food ; the inmates were bedded, for it was now eleven P.M., but the kind hostess rose and hasted to supply him. He requested only milk and whisky, and she soon appeared with a jolly can of milk and a bottle of whisky ; a crystal tumbler was also laid down, and he begged she would substitute a bowl for the tumbler. He poured one half of the milk and one half of the whisky into the bowl and quaffed the mixture off at one draught ; and while his kind attendant looked on in amazement, he poured the remainder of the milk and whisky into the bowl, and drank that also. He then resumed his journey, cheerily chanting a merry lilt to himself till he reached his abode. The fifty-two miles of direct crowflight distance to and fro was in itself a great performance ; but another eighteen miles of ranging round and round Loch Toila, must be added, and then we have nothing short of seventy miles—another item is, the weight of the creel !

Threatenings of paralysis caused the Professor to resign his chair in 1851, and his literary services were gracefully recognised by the then Premier, Lord John Russell, in form of a pension of £200 which was bestowed on him. That, however, he was not long spared to enjoy, for, with the exception of one year's residence with his brother, Robert Sym Wilson, at Woodburn, near Dalkeith, he remained in his own house in Gloucester Place, nearly without intermission, in a state of prostration till his death, which happened on 3d April 1854. That house had been built for him and was ready for entry in 1826, so that he had been its inhabitant for twenty-eight years.

A noble statue of him in bronze has, since his death, been erected in Princes Street, serving the double purpose of a lively memorial of his

genius, and a tribute to those Conservative principles which Wilson so strenuously laboured to uphold. It is the work of Sir John Steele, and one of his most successful efforts—placed too in a most attractive position, at the west end of the same garden-walk on which the Scott Monument stands.

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GEORGE JOSEPH BELL, Advocate, was brother to Sir Charles Bell, eminent as a physiologist and skilful artist, in a particular line applicable to his own profession of surgery. Their father was a clergyman of the Scottish Episcopal communion, who died when his children were young and poorly provided for. In their respective professions, by dint of application and study conjoined with natural genius, they both attained the highest distinction. The career of Charles Bell lay chiefly in England, from which he returned to fill the Chair of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh about seven years prior to his death in 1842. His brother George, the proper subject of this notice, was born in 1770, and having received a fitting education, was called to the Bar in 1791. He early attained a high position in his profession by the publication of his *Commentaries on the Law of Scotland*, a work of great learning and research, which was appreciated on its first appearance, and has ever since kept its place as a leading text-book of Mercantile Law. Lord Cockburn has styled Mr. Bell "our greatest Institutional writer;" and speaking of his *Commentaries*, calls it "the greatest work on Scotch jurisprudence that has appeared since Stair's *Institutes*," adding that "its authority has helped to decide probably eighty out of every hundred mercantile questions that have been settled since it began to illuminate our Courts; and it has done, and will do, more for the fame of the Law of Scotland in foreign countries than has been done by all our other law books put together." To the profoundest erudition in the legal lore of ancient times he united a rare familiarity with the different systems of modern Europe. Mr. Bell's *Principles of the Law of Scotland* was the last publication to which he set his hand. It contains a great portion of the valuable observations which form the staple of his *Commentaries*, exhibited in a condensed and methodical form. Both of these works have gone through numerous editions, and been laboriously annotated since the author's death, by distinguished lawyers, proud to connect their names with his.

His appointment as Professor of Scots Law dates from 2d February 1822, when his election was unanimous, on the motion of John Clerk of Eldin, seconded by Sir Walter Scott. Nine years thereafter, during the Lord Advocacy of Jeffrey, he was made a Principal Clerk of Session on the retirement of Sir Walter Scott from that office. Jeffrey observed to Henry Cockburn on that occasion that he thought himself almost sufficiently compensated for accepting office by the opportunity it gave him of rewarding so honest and ill-used a man as George Joseph Bell with the Principal Clerkship. Cockburn adds to this information that "Jeffrey would have seen to his being made a Judge had there been then a vacancy, a position for which he was well fitted, seeing that his great legal work had been instructing the Bench during the last thirty years."

The worthy Professor and Clerk of Session died at the age of seventy-three, in his house No. 3 Park Place, on 22d September 1843, after having sat at his post under the Judge's bench for thirteen years, during which period, almost daily, he had the satisfaction to witness the practical value of his own learned labours, when his works would be cited, appealed to, and accepted from the Bench as conclusive on the points under discussion.





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Lord Cuninghame.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Lord Gillies.

*Edinburgh, 1839.*





PLATE XIII.—A.D. 1839.

THE HON. JOHN (LORD) CUNINGHAME.

THE HON. ADAM (LORD) GILLIES.

HERE we have truly striking likenesses of two of the Court of Session Judges who, although Whigs in politics and sound lawyers, were inimical to the Non-Intrusion principles contended for by the dominant party in the Church Courts of the period.

JOHN CUNINGHAME, born in 1783, was educated at the University of Glasgow, where he was assisted in his studies by Thomas Campbell, the future poet, who was then a student at the same college. From Glasgow he was removed to Edinburgh and placed in a Writer to the Signet's office, to learn the technical departments of his future profession; and during his attendance at the law classes and otherwise preparing himself for the Bar, he became acquainted with Brougham and other Liberals, who formed a party by themselves in the Parliament House. He himself entered there in 1807, and such was his success that in a few years he was enabled to purchase the estate of Duloch in West Fifeshire, in which district he found the congenial society of quite a knot of Whigs. At the formation of the Earl Grey Ministry he accepted the office of senior Depute Advocate, and in 1835 became Solicitor-General, when John Archibald Murray was made Lord Advocate under the new Melbourne Ministry. In the race for Court of Session honours, he attained a seat on the bench in 1837, three years after Jeffrey, and two years before Murray; he soon acquired much reputation as an Outer House Judge through the general soundness of his decisions and quick despatch of the causes brought before him. He made an admirable Judge in what are termed "constitutional questions"—a department of law in which some very brilliant lawyers have been known to make great havoc.

It was Lord Cuninghame's fortune to have the responsibility of

deciding in the first stages some of the all-important questions which led to the Disruption of the Church ; and some who felt most aggrieved in those days by the adverse decisions of the Courts, regarding them as encroachments on ecclesiastical authority, were afterwards constrained to recur to Cuninghame's clear statements with more patience and submission. Take, for instance, the following excerpt from the Note appended to his last interlocutor in the celebrated Auchterarder case in 1841 :—"The great end and object of all national establishments of religion is to have spiritual ordinances dispensed to the people ; but this only in the manner, or upon the system, which the Legislature thought fit to prescribe. A religious establishment, therefore, supported by the State, and yet irresponsible to the ordinary tribunals, in all matters which the Clergy may choose to consider of a purely spiritual nature, would be an anomaly such as never has been exhibited, and would not probably be endured, in any civilised community in modern times. At all events, the Scottish Legislature committed no such error, as from the first they gave only the most limited power to the Kirk. Their very creed was prescribed by the Legislature, who also fixed the constitution of the ecclesiastical bodies by repeated provisions as to the rights of presentees, and conferred on church courts the very limited powers they legally possess, chiefly in cases of examination as to fitness and of heresy. The Kirk, therefore, can no more, of its own authority, disregard any of those fundamental statutes, than it can by a direct law of its own (as in 1638 was attempted) abolish the whole system of Church government, and substitute a new one in its place."

On the death of Lord Jeffrey, in January 1850, Lord Cuninghame was removed to the Inner House, where his labours, however responsible, were less constant and harassing than as a Lord Ordinary. He had before that date met with an accident which rendered him lame for life, and he soon found, from increasing infirmities, and particularly from deafness, that his usefulness was much impaired, and he retired in 1853.

Lord Cuninghame married a daughter of General Trotter of Mortonhall, who survived him. He died at his house, No. 23 Moray Place, on 26th October 1854, at the age of seventy-one, about a year after his retirement from the Bench.

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ADAM GILLIES was the sixth son of Robert Gillies of Little Keithock, in Forfarshire, and younger brother of Dr. John Gillies, the historian of Greece, and historiographer of Scotland. Born in 1766, he was called to the Bar in 1787, was appointed Sheriff of Kincardineshire in 1806, and raised to the Bench in 1811. He married a daughter of Thomas Carnegie, Esq., of Craigo, by whom he had no family, and she survived him twenty years. When he was made a Lord of Session, Henry Cockburn entered the remark in his journal, that the whole Court were taken by surprise, this being "the first instance that had probably ever occurred of promoting to a seat on the Bench a person opposed in his political opinions to the Government that appointed him. The honour of effecting this marked deviation was due to Charles Hope, the Lord President, who felt that his Court needed law, which it was expected Gillies would supply." Lockhart's sketch of Gillies as Lord Ordinary in 1819 is as follows:— "He had at first sight an air of laziness about him, and seemed as if he grudged the labour of lifting up his eyes to view the countenance of the person addressing him. But every now and then he muttered some short questions or remark which showed abundantly that his intellect was awake to all the intricacies of the case, and I could see that when the advocates were done speaking, he had no difficulty in separating the essence of the plea from all the adventitious matter with which the briefs had instructed them to clog and embarrass it. He has a countenance very expressive of acumen, and a pair of the finest black eyes I ever saw, although he commonly keeps them half-shrouded under their lids."

Another able writer of later date—Dr. John Brown, recently deceased—has recorded a brief reference to the subject of this notice, thus:—"Lord Gillies, every inch a man and a judge—strong, clear, prompt, inevitable, with a tenderness and concentration of heart that only such men can have and give. I remember well his keen, shrewd, handsome, authoritative face, his shapely, well-knit legs in his Hessian boots." The readers of Lord Cockburn's *Memorials of his own Time* will recollect how humorously he descants on the partiality our immediate predecessors had for suppers, until that cosy meal was almost subjected to erasure from the catalogue of Christian diets, through the demand for late dinners in fashionable life. Lord Gillies was one of those Scotchmen who practically protested against the imperious innovation. True, he was himself somewhat of a gourmand, and had his kitchen so constructed that when he had no fashionable visitors he could make his household meal there, and have

his fowl roasted and his beefsteak grilled and eaten on the spot. His Saturday evening suppers are still gushingly remembered by some who were partakers thereof more than half a century ago. A delicious odour generally hung about the area of No. 16, on the north side of York Place, and we are assured that it was no uncommon circumstance, on a winter Sunday morning, for God-fearing pilgrims, proceeding to matin-service in St. Paul's Chapel, to see Lord Gillies with a lighted candle in his left hand, while letting out his guests of the previous evening, and shaking hands with them at the street-door. That dwelling-house is also identified with the *Mystifications* of the clever Miss Clementina Stirling Graham, who made it the "green-room" of her little dramatic studies, whence she would emerge as "Lady Pitlyal," accompanied by Miss Helen Carnegie (a sister of Mrs. Gillies), who enacted the part of "the Rosebud"—the "Heiress of Pitlyal"—to *take in* Francis Jeffrey, and many others equally liable to be imposed on.

Adam Gillies had been almost a Republican in his sentiments during the earlier stages of the French Revolution, and acted as counsel for Joseph Gerald when tried for sedition at Edinburgh in 1794. His town residence was at No. 16 York Place, but his death occurred at Leamington on 24th December 1842, at the age of seventy-six. His remains were removed to Edinburgh and interred in the family place of sepulture in Greyfriars' Churchyard.



1839.

Adam Duff.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Lord Cockburn.

Edinburgh, 1839.



PLATE XIV.—A.D. 1838.

ADAM DUFF, ESQ., SHERIFF OF MIDLOTHIAN.

THE HON. HENRY (LORD) COCKBURN.

OF the two legal gentlemen here represented, the first came to the Bar in 1799, and the other in 1800, consequently they must have been about the same age—say sixty years—when these sketches were taken. What else they possessed in common we are unable to say; indeed, the artist seems to have brought them together on the same page by way of contrast—a favourite mode of his in producing a certain kind of effect, as the peruser of this volume will see before he goes very far into it. Without meaning to attach any moral importance to respective sides in politics, there is no harm in mentioning that Mr. Adam Duff was a confirmed Tory; whereas Henry Cockburn, from a very early period in his career, had spontaneously formed Whig sentiments which stuck to him all his life. The careless exterior and slovenly gait of the plain-featured, though very amiable, Sheriff stand out here like a foil against the finely-chiselled face and firm-set figure of the accomplished Court of Session Judge. The two men cannot be supposed as in conversation here; the latter is apparently passing briskly by at a small distance off, bent on reaching Bonaly at his accustomed afternoon hour—for he was a rare pedestrian—while the other saunters on, wrapped in his coarse blue spencer, and his hands idly folded behind his back, grasping an umbrella which can be of little service to him, seeing he has nothing on his person that rainfall could spoil.

Sheriff DUFF, we believe, belonged originally to Kincardineshire, and if he had eventually attained a seat on the Bench, he most likely would have taken the title “Lord Findon,” after the name of his little property in the north. At the time of his decease he had been Sheriff of Midlothian during so long a period as twenty-one years; and, according to

the obituary notices by the press, "he was respected by both Whigs and Radicals, and beloved by all who came into contact with him. Few men," we are told, "have passed through such stormy times, and yet left behind them a character so unblemished." He died, after a brief illness, at his house in Charlotte Square, on 17th May 1840.

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HENRY COCKBURN, according to his own account, was born on 26th October 1779, either at the town residence of his parents on the east side of Parliament Square, or at a small estate of their own, eight miles from the city, called Cockpen, which was afterwards sold to the Earl of Dalhousie. His father, Archibald Cockburn, was then Sheriff of Midlothian, and thereafter one of the Barons of Exchequer; his mother, a daughter of Captain Rannie of Melville, was a sister of the wife of Henry Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville, and the boy "*Henry* Cockburn" was thus named through that family connection. The latter, as he grew up and became free to form and act upon his own opinions, resisted all the lures to Conservatism which sprung out of that connection, and allied himself with the steady warmth of his nature to that Liberal cause which he so greatly adorned throughout his life.

His course of education at the High School and the University of Edinburgh having been completed, he prepared himself for future practice at the Bar by joining the celebrated debating-societies composed of aspiring young men who, especially in that era, assembled for such exercises within the college halls, and manifested the brightest tokens of future eminence. He became a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1800, along with Henry Brougham and John Archibald Murray, another bright associate of his, James Moncreiff, having entered on the previous year. In his Autobiography he tells us that Charles Hope, afterwards Lord President, was, although a high Conservative, his first, indeed his only professional patron, and used to take him with him on his justiciary circuits, and continued to be his kind friend through life in spite of his "obstinate and active Whiggism." Hope was Lieutenant-Colonel of the "First Gentlemen's Regiment of Volunteers," in which Cockburn and Murray ranked as Captains, and thus humorously is this part of the narrative told:—"I commanded 92 of my fellow-creatures from 1804 to 1814—80 private soldiers, 2 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, 4 corporals, and a trumpeter, who all trembled (or were bound to tremble) when I raised



my voice. Mine was the left flank company of the Western Battalion of Midlothian Volunteers. John A. Murray's company was the right flank one, and as these two were both from the parish of Saint Cuthbert's, we always drilled together."

His own picture of the domestic charms of his life, at this time, and onwards, is thus finely rendered:—"In March 1811 I married, and set up my rural household gods at Bonaly, in the parish of Colinton, close by the northern base of the Pentland Hills; and, unless some avenging angel shall expel me, I shall never leave that paradise. I began by an annual lease of a few square yards and a scarcely habitable farm-house. But, realising the profanations of Auburn, I have destroyed a village, and erected a tower, and reached the dignity of a twenty-acred laird. Everything, except the two burns, the few old trees, and the mountains, are my own work, and to a great extent the work of my own hands. Human nature is incapable of enjoying more happiness than has been my lot here; where the glories of the prospects, and the luxury of the wild retirement, have been all enhanced by the progress of my improvements, of my children, and of myself. I have been too happy, and often tremble in the anticipation that the cloud must come at last. Warburton says that there was not a bush in his garden on which he had not hung a speculation. There is not a recess in the valleys of the Pentlands, nor an eminence on their summits, that is not familiar to my solitude. One summer I read every word of Tacitus in the sheltered crevice of a rock (called 'My seat'), about 800 feet above the level of the sea, with the most magnificent of scenes stretched out before me."

In 1830, with the accession of the Earl Grey Ministry, he was appointed Solicitor-General, on which occasion John Hope, the son of his former patron, lost that office. The father magnanimously shook Cockburn by the hand in the warmest manner, saying, "Harry, I wish you joy! Since my son was to lose it, I am glad that your father's son has got it." John Hope, however, was in some degree consoled by being elected Dean of Faculty. Henry Cockburn had long before this period attained a position of celebrity as a pleader, and especially in the art of convincing a jury, the general opinion was that he never had been equalled. He had, in 1822, been counsel for the defence in the trial of Mr. Stuart of Dunearn, for killing Sir Alexander Boswell in a duel, and an acquittal was the result. Sir James Mackintosh, in the House of Commons, characterised the speech of Mr. Cockburn as an eminent

instance of vigorous discharge of duty to his client, combined with due respect to the tribunals and laws of the country. "The speech," he said, "had not been surpassed by any effort in the whole range of ancient or modern forensic eloquence." In November 1831 he was elected Rector of Glasgow University, and was raised to the Bench three years thereafter. Curiously enough, on the very day of his being installed as a Lord of Session, the Whig Ministry was suddenly dismissed in favour of a protectionist administration, under Sir Robert Peel; but the Conservatives did not long enjoy their triumph, for in April following they were turned out of office and the Whigs restored to power with the Melbourne Ministry.

During nearly nine years Lord Cockburn continued to do laborious work in the Outer House, when, on 21st November 1843, he was removed to the Second Division of the Inner House. Several years thereafter, when Thomas Maitland was raised to the Bench, he made the remark in his journal, pointing to the circumstance that Lord Dundrennan, Lord Fullerton, and himself were married to three sisters, daughters of Macdowall of Garthland—"Were there ever three brothers-in-law on the Bench before at the same time?"

Henry Cockburn may be said to have died in harness. On Thursday, 20th April 1854, being then on the Ayr circuit, he was engaged in the Justiciary Court till 2 P.M. Next day he was home at Bonaly, and made an interesting entry in his Journal. On Sunday the 23d he was seized with sudden illness, and died on the morning of Wednesday the 26th, at the age of seventy-four. In person he was under the middle height, but in him the mind was the stature of the man. The full-length representation of him in marble within the Parliament House, together with the finely-executed portrait which hangs near it, impart a good conception of his face and figure, although even there we do not see the full dignity and majesty of moral and intellectual greatness that were developed in the living orator. His remains were deposited in the Dean Cemetery, in the spot where he had expressed a wish to be laid, under the shade of the same old trees that sigh over the sepulchres of Moncreiff, Jeffrey, Rutherford, and other stars of the bright era to which they belonged.



N. 15.

Sir James Gibson-Craig

MODERN ATHENIANS

Sir Thomas Dick-Lauder

Edinburgh, 1839



PLATE XV.—A.D. 1844.

SIR JAMES GIBSON-CRAIG, BART.

SIR THOMAS DICK-LAUDER, BART.

TWO Baronets very familiarly known in the city are here introduced as in conversation. Of these the younger and less in stature was really a tall man, although here he looks comparatively small, placed beside one who stood many inches above six feet in height, and moved amongst the citizens like Saul among the people. The Baronetcy of the latter was of recent creation, and was his own achievement ; while that of his companion in the etching came by the conquest of an ancestor so far back as A.D. 1688. Both eminently belonged to the Whig or Liberal side in politics.

SIR JAMES GIBSON-CRAIG, prior to the year 1823, was plain James Gibson, Esq., W.S. He passed as a Writer to the Signet in 1786, when twenty-two years of age ; and, so far as we are aware, he was never much addicted to literature, beyond what was requisite for attaining proficiency in his own profession. Nevertheless, not long before his death a very interesting narrative from his pen was published, giving reminiscences of his own early life, especially in relation to a companion of his a few years his junior, which reads like an autobiography. That young friend was John Allen, then a student of surgery and medicine in Edinburgh, who removed to London early in the present century ; and under the patronage of Lord and Lady Holland became a distinguished man, and Master of Dulwich College. In those early days in Edinburgh, Allen was an indomitable Republican in sentiments, and when the news reached this country of the taking of the Bastille (14th July 1789) he united with James Gibson in celebrating the event by a dinner in Fortune's Tavern, at which in all twenty-four trusty Reformers appeared in response to a cautiously expressed invitation by a convener. The affair nevertheless

got wind, and so alarmed some of the authorities that the Captain of the city police took his station at the door and noted down the names of every entrant to the tavern at the appointed hour. Mr. Fergusson of Craigdarroch was placed in the chair—the same hero who in October following carried off the Whistle at the claret-drinking match in Dumfriesshire, celebrated by Burns. The twenty-four aspirants after Freedom who were present on that occasion were chiefly men of the Parliament House, embracing among the rest such spirits as John Clerk (afterwards Lord Eldin), David Cathcart (afterwards Lord Alloway), Adam Gillies (afterwards Lord Gillies), Malcolm Laing the historian, etc. “These,” adds the narrator, “formed the nucleus on which the Liberal party in Scotland was founded. Society was then in a great degree broken up, and in ordinary dinner-parties it was considered unsafe to bring together persons of different politics. Craigdarroch, our Chairman, I regret to say, became a renegade to the principles he then professed, and was killed a few years afterwards by the overturn of a carriage at Erickstane Brae on the Dumfries road.” The young Lord Daer, son of the Earl of Selkirk (and also celebrated by Burns), likewise in these days entertained about twenty sympathisers with the French Republicans to dinner in Hunter’s Tavern, Writers’ Court, Allen and Gibson being of the number, and they got private warning during their deliberations that the Sheriff of the County and two clerks were planted as eavesdroppers in the room adjoining, to carry off notes of their proceedings.

The details of Mr. Gibson’s life were not always so interesting as from the above instances one would be led to expect; but by his talents and enterprise he soon placed himself at the head of one of the leading law-firms in Edinburgh. In autumn 1796 he had married Anne, daughter of James Thomson, Esq., of this city, who must have been a superior person in education and intelligence, as the readers of Jeffrey’s *Life and Letters* cannot miss to discern, through the position she held as one of his friends and correspondents. This marriage produced two sons and seven daughters, the eldest son being the late Sir William, who, after representing first the county and then the city in Parliament, became a Lord of the Treasury under the Russell Administration before succeeding to the Baronetcy at his father’s death. Henry (Lord) Cockburn, in his appreciative notice of the earlier career of Sir James Gibson-Craig, describes him as having been “the general patron of all the needy patriots in Scotland to whom he had long been predicting brighter days; he sought

places for them oftener than he liked, while for himself he refused everything that was offered, both in 1805, when the Whigs were in power, and in 1830; and excepting his Baronetcy in 1831, I am not aware that any benefits depending on politics ever accrued to him. Prompt, able, and vigorous, with a decisive and resolute manner, his whole life was spent in fearless usefulness. He was so prominent in our worst times, that it is difficult to understand how Thomas Muir, advocate, could be transported in 1793, and James Gibson, Writer to the Signet—not even tried! No private individual out of Parliament—never publishing, never speaking, and largely engrossed in private business—did so much to uphold the popular cause. There could be no ebb or flow of Whiggism in Scotland but this active and ardent spirit was sure to be in the midst of it. His devotion to the apparently desperate cause of Scottish freedom, and even his personal strength and stateliness, made him the terror and hatred of some, while the same qualities made him the idol of others.”

It was in 1823, as already indicated, that the double surname “Gibson-Craig” was adopted by the subject of this notice. This was the result of his succession to the estate of Riccarton and Ingliston at the death of Robert Craig, advocate, a Judge of the Commissary Court, at the age of ninety-three, lineal descendant of Sir Thomas Craig, a distinguished feudal lawyer of the sixteenth century whose eldest daughter was married to Sir Alexander Gibson of Durie, a collateral ancestor of James Gibson. The Baronetcy was conferred on him on 30th September 1831, which honour was one of the first of its kind conferred by the new Liberal administration. In 1832,—when each post might bring news of a Revolution or of a military despotism; when mobs surrounded the General Post-Office to hear the latest information thundered out by the Mail-guard on his arrival there about mid-day,—no object excited more attraction than the towering form of Sir James Gibson-Craig as he passed through the assembled throng with veteran strides. People saw the future in the large workings of his expressive features—the very tramp of his top-boots seemed to inspire confidence, and the hope that springs from resolute exertion. The Reform Bill at length passed, and the first Parliamentary election thereafter in the city took place in December following, when, from the hustings erected at the Cross, Jeffrey was proposed by Sir James, and Abercromby by Mr. Adam Black, the only opposing candidate being Mr. Hunter Blair, who was proposed by Sir F. Walker Drummond—the two Liberals being triumphantly returned after two days of polling.

The ceremony of "chairing the Members" was a novel sight indeed. Never for the sake of any object of personal ambition or vanity did Sir James put a good cause to a moment's peril; and accordingly, even under the weight of nearly eighty years, he exerted himself during the progress of after events, in the old spirit of his best days, against the paltry little intrigues whereby Mr. Black's honest title to the civic chair was attempted to be frustrated, on the alleged ground of his being a "Dissenter" in matters of Church polity. In August 1844, on the occasion of laying the foundation of the public monument on the Calton Old Burial-ground to the memory of Muir, Palmer, Skirving, and other political martyrs of the early Reform struggles, near the close of last century, he presided at the dinner to Joseph Hume, M.P., which immediately followed that ceremony. He himself said that in thus undertaking the gratifying duty, he "had been influenced by some friends who wished the character of deceased Judges to be tenderly dealt with."

We must not omit to note that on 28th December 1838, as the result of a public subscription which was initiated and conducted with noiseless delicacy, a magnificent testimonial was privately presented to Sir James at Riccarton by a deputation, his health not then admitting of his receiving it publicly. It consisted of various pieces of finely-designed silver plate worth £1500; and Lord Cockburn thus remarks concerning this grateful acknowledgment from his political friends:—"No man ever better deserved such an honour. He has not flinched one moment from the public cause for above half a century, or ever varied in his leading principles or objects. Nor has his energy been greater during the existing triumph of his party than it was in 1793, when independence was eminently dangerous, and its success apparently hopeless. I enjoy the feelings with which the honour will delight his most excellent family. For himself, he stalks about, stamping indignation at the whole affair, and scarcely can be brought to behave decorously to the deputation. Yet the retrospect of the course which has led to this tribute swells his manly breast with just pride, and brings tears into those kind and honest eyes."

His last public appearance was within three weeks of his own death, at a meeting of committee for the erection of a monument to his recently deceased friend and compatriot, Lord Jeffrey. A sharp attack of bronchitis was the immediate cause of his somewhat sudden removal at the age of eighty-five, at Riccarton, on 6th March 1850. The entry made by Cockburn in his Journal concerning the event is short and touch-



ing :—"When the autumn of one's friendships once begins, alas ! how fast do the leaves fall ! His was a death that left nothing to be regretted, unless it be that man is mortal. He was buried in that beautiful and retired resting-place where Lady Craig was laid some twelve or fifteen years ago—selected by himself at the west end of his shrubbery. I have always questioned the wisdom of that selection."

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SIR THOMAS DICK-LAUDER predeceased his brother Baronet by nearly two years, and may be said to have been laid, like him, "at the west end of the shrubbery" of his own grounds. During the seventeen years of his permanent residence in Edinburgh (1831 to 1848) there were few more popular and respected men within its precincts than Sir Thomas, Laird of the Grange. At the age of forty-seven he left his beautiful northern property called "Relugas," on the river Findhorn, and brought his household with him to reside thenceforth at a former ancestral home of his family in the southern suburbs of our city. Doubtless in resolving on this change he may have been attracted to the capital by its advantages for the education and disposing of his family ; and possibly he may have been also tempted to it by the near prospect of a favourable turn of Fortune's wheel to the political side of his own cherished attachments. "Better be in luck's way," might be one of the promptings of his movements, yet right welcomely was he hailed as one of our modern Athenians ; and he arrived in time to be of some service to his party, near the close of the Reform struggle.

"Few men," said Henry Cockburn, "not bred to any regular profession—for his stay in the army was not a prolonged one—could have distinguished themselves in such a variety of ways as he could, if he had chosen. His account of the great floods of August 1829, in the province of Moray and adjoining districts, is perhaps the best description extant of any British inundation. Yet his powers in literature, the arts, and in science, were apt to be lost sight of by his friends amidst their enjoyment of his worth and amiable gaiety. He is the greatest favourite with the mob that the Whigs have ; indeed his Whiggism is so liberal that it enables him to keep the Radical party in order. A flow of rambling, natural talk, ready jokes, the twinkle of a mild laughing eye, a profusion of light yellow locks, tossed over his head, face, and throat—a bludgeon

ludicrously huge for civil life, a tall, gentleman-like Quixotic figure, and a general picturesqueness of appearance."

In the foregoing passage the writer manifestly refers to the frequent humorous addresses delivered from the hustings and other elevated stances by Sir Thomas at the time of, and during a few years subsequent to, the Reform agitation of 1832—particularly in the early summer of 1834, when Jeffrey's elevation to the Bench had the effect of throwing the city again into the excitement of a contested Parliamentary election. Sir Thomas's "buffoonery," as some termed it, was very serviceable in harassing the Learmonth party, and their bragging about "the Bridge that Jack built," and by keeping in check the boisterous declamation of Radical Aytoun and his "honest 480 voters." Sir Thomas was rewarded with an appointment to the Secretaryship of the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland, a post for which he was well qualified. "Fifteen years ago," wrote Henry Cockburn in December 1845, "the Grange was a tall gray keep with an old garden on different levels, joined by balustraded stairs, all in bad order,—it is now an excellent house, with the garden preserved, but greatly improved. The old approach, which was from the north and nearly inaccessible, has been given up for the present striking one from the south; and the grounds are rich—perhaps too rich—in evergreens, statues, vases, stairs, balustrades, terraces, and a delightful bowling-green. No time-honoured mansion was ever touched by a more truly antique hand. If Principal Robertson, who died there in 1793, were to revisit it he would see a change, but he would at once know the old place."

Sir Thomas nearly eighteen months prior to his death became affected by some crushing internal malady—a tumour on the spine, we think—which produced excessive weakness, and frequently much acute pain. "It might have been anticipated," says Cockburn, "that such an illness must have sunk or irritated a spirit so gay and so unpractised to sickness. But he battled it bravely and quietly, and never in the full tide of health was he so gentle, affectionate, and serene, as when life was ebbing. No fretfulness or murmuring or impatience or despondency,—a desire to live, and no horror of dying; a kind and cheerful sofa or bedside enjoyment of friends; an interest in his garden, deepened perhaps by the improbability of ever seeing his flowers bloom again; a little business, and his own pleasure in slight literary composition. For a year or more *Tait's Magazine* had been enriched by a series of articles on "The Rivers of

Scotland,"—articles not so deep certainly as some of our streams, but not so shallow as others, yet as pleasing as the best of them. These papers do not contain one gloomy thought, but are all as bright and fresh with nature as if they had proceeded from a vigorous enthusiast glowing from the very scenes, but softening his exuberance of enjoyment by occasional tenderness of reflection. They were all composed on his death-bed—it was really an exercise of holy dying, a scene for philosophers and Christians to contemplate, and be made wiser thereby."

The light and happy spirit, that had been the tenant of so comely a casket, left the fair fabric tenantless on the morning of May 29, 1848, and Sir Thomas, at the age of sixty-four, was no more in the land of the living. His remains were interred in a compartment of the Grange Cemetery, which he had reserved for his own and family place of sepulture, at the time he sold so many acres of his estate to the Southern Cemetery Company.<sup>1</sup> We rather suspect there is not now one member alive of that sprightly generation for whom he possessed so loving a regard. It seems but like a few yesterdays ago since the living tableaux of our Spring Assemblies were brightened by the moving presence of Sir Thomas, of Lady Dick-Lauder, and the Misses Lauder. And yet, alas! in less than two months after the demise above recorded, we thus begin to read in the obituaries—"July 17 (1848), Died at Parson's Green, Charlotte Gordon Dick-Lauder, wife of Alexander Mitchell Innes, Esq., younger of Ayton."

<sup>1</sup> A brass plate inserted in the north wall inside of New Greyfriars Church points out the burial-place of the Lauder family from 1598 down to 1848, and explains that Sir John Lauder, first baronet of Fountainhall, was interred there in 1692, followed by his son, Lord Fountainhall, in 1722, and several baronets of the line in succession. There, also, we learn how the double surname, *Dick-Lauder*, came to be adopted. The fifth baronet of Fountainhall, Sir Andrew Lauder, acquired the lands of Grange through his marriage with Dame Isobel Dick, heiress of that estate, on the condition of his adding her surname to his own. He died in 1769.

The lady of our subject, Sir Thomas, the seventh baronet of Fountainhall, was Dame Charles Anne Cumin, only child and heiress of George Cumin, Esq., of Relugas, a great-grandson of Lord Fountainhall.





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Robert Forsyth

MODERN ATHENIANS

John S. More.

Edinburgh, 1840.



PLATE XVI.—A.D. 1840.

ROBERT FORSYTH, ESQ., ADVOCATE.

JOHN SHANK MORE, ESQ., LL.D., ADVOCATE.

THE two members of the Faculty here brought together were, in their respective spheres, more remarkable for plodding industry and hard work than for brilliancy of talents. One of them was about twenty years the senior of the other, but having been somewhat advanced in life when he came to the Bar, the difference between them in professional experience was thus reduced considerably. Taking the physiognomy as an index of the mind, nothing very bright could be anticipated from John Shank More ; but the thoughtful-looking face of Forsyth, with its peculiar cock of the eye and long upper-lip adorned with pregnant smirk, suggesting that more is meant than meets the ear when he speaks, conveys an impression of profoundest wisdom and erudition. Nevertheless, the actors in the drama of life, in many instances, wear masks in performing their respective parts.

ROBERT FORSYTH was born in a very humble sphere of life about the year 1764, and after a parish-school education supplemented by that of the University for two or three years, he was licensed to preach the Gospel. This first destiny of his, however, did not prove to be lasting. He was a candidate for the vacant parish of Liberton, but his rival—James Grant—was preferred on the supposed ground that Forsyth's political principles were suspicious, he having been known to sympathise with a class of reputed Revolutionists at that time styling themselves "Friends of the People." He shook the dust off his feet against the Kirk, and after some patient drilling and study, applied for admission to the Bar, where he had to encounter similar opposition on account of his Whiggery. By dint of perseverance, however, and after resigning his preaching diploma into the hands of the Presbytery, he obtained entry as

an advocate in 1792, the same year in which Walter Scott was admitted. In those days and for upwards of thirty years onward, all or nearly all the pleadings were committed to writing, and a junior counsel before the Lord Ordinary seldom required to open his mouth except in reply to an occasional question from the Bench. "Forsyth never rose above the writing sphere," says Lord Cockburn in a brief notice of him in his *Journal* on the occasion of his death. "He entered on an unbroken course of toil as dull as intellectual toil can ever be, and the demands on his hard brain and iron nerves were unbounded. During at least thirty years he dictated or made up one quarto volume every day. The almanac of his life had not one holiday in it; Saturday and Sunday, session and vacation, brought no play to him and his scribbling slave. And not content with thus labouring for sixteen hours out of every twenty-four, he employed the few and precarious pauses which others gave to Bacchus, to Morpheus, or to Momus, in the creation of books. Only one of these—*Elements of Moral Science*—consisted of original composition, all the others were compilations. His travels were in his own room under a worsted cowl, and from his room to the court and back. He was occasionally to Glasgow on business, and once, I know, at Perth; but I doubt if he ever saw much more of his native country. Yet, sitting by his fire-side, he produced a work in five octavo volumes (published in 1809), extensively known to sellers of old books as *Forsyth's Beauties of Scotland*. He supplied publishers with treatises on chemistry and on agriculture; surgery, astronomy, or shipbuilding would have been equally welcome to him. He could have written the whole *Encyclopædia Britannica* at a guinea per sheet in a couple of years. Jeffrey, in reviewing his *Elements of Moral Science*, says that 'his peculiar merit consists in a kind of homely sagacity and coarse good sense; impaired, however, by an ungraceful tone of irreverence towards other philosophers, and somewhat too much of cold and unfeeling dogmatism.'"

Lockhart, in 1819, thus sketched the external characteristics of Forsyth:—"I have never seen a countenance that combined in such a strange manner originality of expression with features of commonplace formation. His nose is large and firm, but shaped without the least approach to one beautiful line. His mouth is of the widest, and rudely fashioned; but whether he closes it entirely or holds it slightly open with a little twist to the left, it is impossible to mistake its intense sagacity of expression for the common-place archness of a mere practised dealer in litigation.



One of his eyes is black as jet, looking out clearly from a tangled web of wrinkles. The other is lighter in hue, and glimmers through a large and watery surface, the lids on that side being large, smooth, and oily—generally in the opposite direction to that of its more vivacious neighbour. Indeed, nothing can be more striking than the difference of effect produced according as the countenance is viewed in sinistral or dextral profile—on the one side, unutterable innocence, and on the other, an eye throwing on everything above and below it a lustre of acumen.”

This remarkable member of the Faculty survived the date referred to (1825) when written pleadings were nearly dispensed with, and yet he seems rarely to have been retained as “first counsel” in important cases, philosopher as he was generally assumed to be. “Why, sir,” he would sagely remark, like Touchstone, “this Parliament House of ours may be compared to a huge chimney by which the bad passions of human nature get vent, and really, though law be somewhat costly, the money brings a good return, in respect it is a safety-valve to prevent explosions too horrible to contemplate!” When he passed away from that arena, and left all sublunary matters to shift for themselves, the world had then one philosopher the less. He died at his house, No. 11 Royal Circus, on September 30, 1845, at the age of eighty-one, and the journalists of the period, in referring to the event, said he had been visibly declining for years past, and succumbed at length to sheer decay of nature. By one of these we are told “he was much esteemed for his extensive research and learning, and for the ease with which in conversation he dispensed his varied information; while at the Bar he was distinguished by his knowledge of the law, and his close, argumentative style, rather than anything light or fanciful.” Some short time after his decease his friends put forth a Memoir of his life, regarding which Lord Cockburn made the following comment:—“In this Memoir, plainly produced with the assistance of the deceased’s family, the public, greatly to its surprise, is told that he was a pious and an eloquent man. If he was, certainly no modesty was ever more successful in hiding its lights under a bushel. This Memoir not only tells what he was not, but it does not tell what he was. Nevertheless, as a counsel, an author, and a politician, he was long remarkable. He was a large, big-boned fellow, with an equivocal turn of one eye, amounting almost to a squint, and slow and calm in all his movements. In appearance he might have passed for a retired blacksmith. With a strong understanding, he had no taste, and no fancy whatever, except in

intellectual speculation." After his eighty years of laborious existence, let his headstone bear the inscription of the common lot—"requiescat in pace."

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JOHN SHANK MORE, LL.D., and ultimately Professor of Scots Law in the University of this city, was a son of the Rev. George More, for some time Secession Minister at South Shields. He was born about 1784, and was called to the Bar in 1806. He was a lawyer, but little or nothing more, plodding away at his studies, and attending faithfully to whatever work was thrown in his way. Gradually he acquired for himself the reputation of a hard-working "Junior," and steadily rose in his very arduous profession. He produced very satisfactory editions of Erskine's *Principles* and of Stair's *Institutes*, and his learned annotations to the latter are familiar to all students of Scotch law.

It was not till after thirty-seven years' probation as an advocate that he was rewarded with a little preferment, and even that seems to have been grudged to him by some of his brethren of the Faculty—as witness the following paragraph inserted in the *Scotsman* of September 30, 1843, —Professor George Joseph Bell had died eight days previously :—

"We understand that John Shank More, advocate, has issued a circular letter offering himself as a candidate for the vacant Chair of Scots Law. Without meaning to detract from the merits of Mr. More, which we fully appreciate, we believe we are warranted in saying that there are among the Members of the Faculty some at least equally qualified for filling the office, and it is not unlikely that other candidates may present themselves. Formerly it was the practice to conjoin a Principal Clerkship with this Professorship, both of which offices were held by Baron Hume and the late Mr. Bell respectively ; but we believe it has been resolved to disunite the appointments henceforth."

The motive of the foregoing "damper" is plain enough—the source of it may not be very hard to divine ; and as regards the election of Mr. More to the Chair, the effect is not now apparent, for he was duly inducted as Mr. Bell's successor on 2d December 1843. His lectures may not have been all that could be desired, and his mode was not such as to add much interest to a subject in itself sufficiently uninviting to youthful students. He treated his themes more as an antiquary than as a reasoning exponent, and his favourite solution of a difficulty was to fly for

shelter under the cover of precedents. He seemed, indeed, to have a rare enjoyment in citing precedents for every sentence he uttered, which had the effect of repelling young students in their attempts to overtake the necessary reading for his lectures. The thousand and one varying decisions in every branch of the law appear to have caused much difficulty to himself; for he could not determine in his own mind what the law actually is, or whether it was correctly laid down in the last recorded decision. The same defect is visible in his Notes on Stair, for he never had the self-assurance to assume an author's privilege of delivering his own opinion to his readers. The question fairly therefore presents itself—Had he ever an opinion of his own to offer upon any subject? Look at the annexed likeness by Crombie. Forsyth's weather-eye is fixed upon him as he propounds some hesitating query in child-like wonderment concerning a supposed difficulty which might be solved by a child!

Professor More died at his house, 19 Great King Street, 12th July 1861. In justice to the departed let us add that Mr. John (now Lord) M'Laren arranged and edited More's *Lectures on the Law of Scotland*, and these were published in 1864.





N<sup>o</sup>. 17.

D<sup>r</sup>. Burt.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Roger Aytoun.

Edinburgh, 1839.



PLATE XVII.—A.D. 1838.

ROBERT BURT, Esq., M.D.

ROGER AYTOUN, Esq., W.S.

NOTIONS of contrast and contrariety of character appear to have had some influence with the artist in bringing these two old worthies together. Their respective ages were nearly alike ; but the benevolent, merry-hearted physician, who delighted in seeing and helping to make everybody around him happy, does form a visible contrast to the supercilious-looking gentleman opposite, who seems, under his sleepy-like eyelid, to regard with scorn or indifference, not only the pomp and circumstance of upper life, but the humble joys and sorrows of the poor.

ROBERT BURT, M.D., resided till the date of his death—28th October 1839—at No. 8 Bank Street, the house nearest the Bank of Scotland, on the east side of the street. He ranked high as a skilful physician, but death put a stop to his usefulness in that capacity ; on the other hand, the memory of his moral worth and good works long survived him, and generations who called him blessed may still be within the city. One of his peculiarities, and a pleasant spring-source of his own happiness, lay in a strong *penchant*, with a corresponding gift he possessed, for making love-matches. The field of his achievements of that kind was not so much among the youths and budding beauties of Edina whom nature could unite without much foreign aid, as among the mellower examples who might, and really did, require extraneous prompting. In these matters the plans of Dr. Burt were so judiciously laid, and his invention so fertile, that his schemes rarely missed reaching a happy fruition : maidens of a certain age whose charms and merits had been basely slighted lived to enjoy the sweetest revenge ; disconsolate young widows got re-mated to their heart's content, while hazy widowers, and even morose bachelors of old standing, became frisky benedicts under his magic

control. The benedictions of many a grateful bosom followed the good physician through his rounds, the general sentiment of those whom he visited being that

“ His very fitt has music in't, as he comes up the stair ;”

and at the little extra symposiums which marked the wedding anniversary of those couples who owed him so much, a standing toast from the loving cup at the cozy supper-table was—“ The health ” (or as it might be) “ the *memory* of Dr. Burt ; honest man !”

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ROGER AYTOUN, W.S., belonged to an old Fifeshire family, and resided, as far back as our memory can reach, at 21 Abercromby Place. He passed as a Writer to the Signet in 1790, and carried on a steady-going business, to which was latterly added the practice of a “ Director in Chancery.” It is certainly something to his credit that he was agent—and the successful agent—for the defence when Stuart of Dunearn was tried for killing Sir Alexander Boswell in a duel. But not content with the lukewarmth of Whigship in politics, he became a blazing Radical, and could satisfy his craving for reform with scarcely any scheme that fell short of revolution. Our artist has portrayed the prevailing characteristics of Roger Aytoun in his independent attitude and unaccommodating expression of countenance. When the reader is informed that this man was the father of William Edmondstoune Aytoun, author of *Lays of the Cavaliers* and other works of the high Conservative type, he may form some conception of young Aytoun's relief when the obituaries announced the death of old Roger at the age of seventy-four on 16th March 1843.





N<sup>o</sup> 18

MODERN ATHENIANS

Edinburgh, 1840

Lord Robertson.

R<sup>h</sup> Hon. John Hope.



PLATE XVIII.—A.D. 1845.

THE HON. PATRICK (LORD) ROBERTSON.

THE RIGHT HON. JOHN HOPE, LORD JUSTICE-CLERK.

THE two Judges placed here on one sheet were born within the earlier half of the closing decade of last century. They were High School boys together, came to the Bar within the same twelvemonths, and both professed high conservatism in their politics. Beyond this the parallel cannot be carried much farther, for although both possessed great intellectual gifts, they bore no similarity to each other either in mind or body; in their deaths however, they were divided by only three years, and both were cut off amid apparent health and vigour by the sudden arrest of the machinery of life.

PATRICK ROBERTSON, who has been styled "a mighty incarnate joke," was the son of a plodding Writer to the Signet, and born in the year 1793. He came to the Bar in 1815, and having married in 1819, became the father of a family of sons and daughters. His reputation was of an order very different to that of other distinguished lights of the Bar and Bench of his own or almost of any other era. He did not pretend to any pre-eminence as a lawyer, for in his pleading, instead of relying on the power of his arguments or of his eloquence, he trusted chiefly to the unique humour with which he illustrated the case he took in hand to support, or to the ridicule he could throw on the opposite side. Of the weapons of humour, John Clerk and Henry Cockburn were masters; but of the sheer power of ridicule—the faculty of plucking a grievance of all its seriousness or sentimentality, and presenting it to the eyes of the jury only as a trivial or grotesque absurdity—Patrick Robertson was without a rival. A report that he was to defend in a fat case of damages was enough to crowd the court, and the crowd seldom went away disappointed. There was an air of triumphant quizzicality even in the way

he took his place at the Bar. The upturned eyes and face of stolid amazement with which he listened to the opening argument for the pursuer were often sufficient to blunt the edge of his adversary's most effective passages. In the narrow limits allowed in Scotch Courts for cross-examination, he was a master, and with a favourable witness—especially one from the Highlands—he was irresistible. His address to the jury was the sure signal for bursts of merriment, peal followed peal till the humorist perceived his point was gained; and then with a few words of well-feigned indignation, he sat down to hear the jury return a verdict for the defender, or to find one shilling of damages due to the pursuer.

Every humorist is in some sort an actor, and Robertson's feats in that line seemed the result of no effort, in consequence of his power of facial expression, his deep voice, so capable of modulation, and his exquisite mimicry. His grave, stolid look, pretending ignorance, incredulity, or surprise, was worthy of Liston; and among his after-dinner accomplishments he could hit off in excellent style an Italian *bravura* after the manner of Lablache. "Once in the chair," wrote Lockhart of him so early as in 1819, "there was no fear of his quitting it while any remained to pay homage to his authority. He made speeches, a chief merit of which consisted in their having neither beginning, middle, nor end. He sang songs in which music was not. He proposed toasts in which meaning was not. But over everything he said was flung such a radiance of mother-wit that there was no difficulty in perceiving that the want of meaning was no involuntary want. By the dazzle of his wit and humour, and above all by the cheering influence of his broad, happy face, seen through the halo of punch steam, he diffused over us all one happy atmosphere of unmingled mirth."

In 1842 the high compliment was paid to Patrick Robertson of electing him Dean of Faculty, and in the year following, on the retirement of Lord Meadowbank, he was raised to the Bench. "There sat he," said Dr. John Brown, "with his spacious expanse of visage, and eyes gleaming and rolling, behind his spectacles, from out their huge rotundity, and capable of amplitude of stare, like a hillside." Yet, on the seat of judgment, it was only on a very few exceptional occasions that he stepped the limits of judicial dignity and decorum. Both on the bench and at the bar his strong natural abilities and vigorous common sense enabled him to conduct the business before him in a creditable and successful manner. In 1848 he was elected Lord Rector of Marischal College,

Aberdeen, about which time also he made a bold incursion into the regions of pure literature by the publication of a succession of effusions in blank verse. If the politeness of his friends who received presentation copies of these prevented their laughter, yet gravely to peruse them exceeded all power of face. The sentence pronounced thereon by Lockhart was heavy enough :—

“ Here lies the peerless paper-lord, Lord Peter,  
Who broke the laws of God, and man, and metre !”

Lord Robertson was suddenly cut off by an apoplectic fit, within his house, No. 32 Drummond Place, on 10th January 1855, at the age of sixty-one.

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LORD JUSTICE-CLERK JOHN HOPE was the son of the long-lived and somewhat celebrated Charles Hope of Granton, Lord President of the Court of Session, and his wife, Charlotte, daughter of the Earl of Hopetoun. Born in Edinburgh in 1794, he came to the Bar in 1816, and so early as 1823 became Solicitor-General. When the Whigs rose into power in 1830 he had to relinquish that post in favour of Henry Cockburn, but was unanimously elected Dean of Faculty by way of consolation. In 1841, when his father retired from the Presidentship, Boyle was transferred to the President's chair, and young Hope was promoted to that of the Lord Justice-Clerk, which office he continued to hold during the remainder of his life. That sudden jump into the Presidentship of the Second Division of the Court of Session, without passing through the intermediate stages of Lord Advocate and Lord Ordinary, excited some remark, but the excuse was made that he had been offered the Lord Advocateship by Canning and had waived the privilege in favour of Sir William Rae. As might have been anticipated, he was an inveterate Conservative in politics, and was in earlier days considered to be the hope of his party. A passage in Sir Walter Scott's diary, penned in Edinburgh in December 1825, will here recur to the reader's recollection ; it is as follows :—“ Walked home with the Solicitor-General—decidedly the most hopeful young man of his time ; high connections and great talent, spirited ambition, a ready elocution with a good voice and dignified manner, prompt and with steady courage, vigilant and with constant assiduity, popularity with the young men, and the good opinion of the old, will, if I mistake not, carry him as high as any man who has arisen

since the days of old Hal Dundas. He is hot though, and rather hasty, —this should be amended. They who play at single stick must bear with pleasure a rap over the knuckles.”

An able journalist, in reference to the foregoing extract, well remarked —“On the whole this is not a very unfair estimate, but down to the very end, there was in John Hope an incapacity to bear the ‘rap over the knuckles,’ along with an increasing tendency to give it. It is doubtful if there ever was a more popular ‘Dean’ than he was, or an advocate whose services were more generally and eagerly sought—and his appetite for labour in his vocation was insatiable. But as a judge, he was far from popular either with the profession or the public; this arose not merely from his arrogance of manner, but from his obstinate adherence to antiquated forms and foregone conclusions. Arbitrary and capricious, he was strong in hatred as in kindness, yet upright, fearless, and unwearied in the discharge of what he conceived to be his duty. He possessed a most retentive memory, and surprised all around him at times by recurring to the minutest details of long-forgotten cases. Himself devoid of the patience or inclination to make himself master of the more recent authorities, he was incessantly searching for precedents, and too often succeeded in finding them. He has been heard to say from the bench, after quoting some obsolete precedent,—‘I would not disturb that authority, even though I believed it to be wrong!’ His contempt for existing opinion had a sort of grandeur about it—a main article in his creed being that ‘no man can be an authority till after he is dead!’”

On June 15, 1858, his Lordship had arrived in town in the evening from a short visit to his country-seat in Ayrshire. He had just finished writing a letter to Mrs. Hope announcing his safe arrival when he was seized with a shock of paralysis. Immediate insensibility intervened, and consciousness never returned—he died before midnight of the same day, at the age of sixty-four. His house was then at No. 20 Moray Place; his widow afterwards removed to No. 2 Royal Terrace, and survived till 26th June 1872 in her eightieth year.



N<sup>o</sup> 19

Rev. William Muir.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Walter Cook.

Edinburgh, 1841.





PLATE XIX.—A.D. 1844.

REV. WILLIAM MUIR, LL.D., D.D., ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH.

WALTER COOK, ESQ., WRITER TO THE SIGNET.

WHAT connection subsisted betwixt the ecclesiastical tactician and the reverential man of law here brought together is not very apparent, unless it be that both being adherents to the established order of things, amid the disorder of 1843, they sometimes did a little business with each other.

Dr. MUIR was born in 1787, and ordained as minister of St. George's Church, Glasgow, in 1812, from which he was translated in September 1822 to New Greyfriars, Edinburgh. Being a refined preacher and possessed of a winning deportment, he was regarded with favour by the Town Council, who held the patronage of the city churches, and in February 1829 they transferred him to the magnificent church of St. Stephen's, then just finished from the hands of a distinguished architect. He was its first minister, and became identified with it for almost forty years; indeed, he was upwards of eighty when, through failure of his eyesight, and a general breaking up of his health, Dr. Maxwell Nicholson was appointed his assistant and successor. That interposition of relief came just in time, for he did not survive it two years, his death taking place at his beautiful domicile called Ormelie, Murrayfield, on 23d June 1869, when eighty-two years old.

In the great Non-Intrusion question, which held the Church in agitation for about ten years prior to the *Disruption*, Dr. Muir took no very decided part for a considerable time, and it seemed doubtful how his sentiments operated; but having been elected Moderator of the General Assembly in May 1838, his position forced him to declare himself. After that period he openly sided with the minority, and soon became one of the leaders of the Moderate party. In May 1839, when the adverse

decision of the House of Lords, in the first Auchterarder case, was being discussed, he affected to sympathise with the Non-Intrusionists in their devotion to the Veto Act, and suggested the adoption of a plausible middle course which might be less offensive to the Civil Courts. His proposition was that the *veto* should be exercised, not by the respective congregations concerned, but by the presbytery of their district; this, however, was scouted with scorn by the other party, whose great aim was to conciliate the good-will of the mass of the people with the compliment of a *nominal* voice in the election of their pastors. John Hope, the Dean of Faculty, in that same year put forth a pamphlet in the form of a letter to the Lord Chancellor, counselling the maintenance of patronage, and the subjection of the Non-Intrusion party. It was shrewdly suspected that Dr. Muir and the Dean had been in communication on the subject, and even that Principal Lee had a finger in the matter; and the pamphlet soon elicited powerful answers from Chalmers, Dunlop, and others. The great Secession at length arrived, and, as man's extremity is said to be God's opportunity, Dr. Muir set himself in a motherly way to gather the residuary brood together, "even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings." *Lord Aberdeen's Bill*, as it was called, came out at this juncture; but it proved a wretched panacea for the ailments of which the Kirk of Scotland was then sick. "That Bill," says Lord Cockburn, "was well understood to be a joint composition of the Dean of Faculty and Dr. Muir." At this period Dr. Muir was consulted by the Government at every step in the disposal of its Church-patronage; and no Grand Vizier under a passive Sultan ever exercised more influence than he did in such matters. "The just and tranquil age of Dr. Robertson" seemed now to be reviving, and such Orders as that of the *Dean of the Thistle* were liberally dispensed to the leading Churchmen of the day.

The published works of Dr. Muir were chiefly these:—*Sermons on the Seven Churches of Asia*, 1830; *Sermons on the Present Distress*, 1832; *An Arrangement of the Parables*, 1836; and, *Sermons on the Work of the Holy Spirit*, 1842. Dr. Muir was twice married, the last union being followed by no issue. In Greyfriars Churchyard, on the east wall, a few yards to the south of the *Martyr's Tomb*, a tablet records that his first wife, Hannah Black, whom he married in 1813, died on 12th August 1827, aged thirty-nine, and was interred there beside his daughter and three sons, all of whom died in childhood, and two of the latter in the same year with their mother. The surviving issue of that marriage are (1)

Robert Hugh Muir, minister of Dalmeny (ordained 1846), and (2) John Stenhouse Muir, minister of Cockpen (ordained 1851). Dr. Muir himself was buried in the Dean Cemetery, where a tablet and bronze profile head of the deceased mark the spot.

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Concerning WALTER COOK, Esq., W.S., we only know that he passed in 1801, and became a distinguished man in his profession. Lord Cockburn incidentally states in his *Life and Letters of Jeffrey* that Mr. Walter Cook, of the firm of W. and J. Cook, 25 Drummond Place, was through life one of the great reviewer's friends. His death happened when he was eighty-four years old, on 17th February 1861.





N<sup>o</sup> 20.

Alexander Kidston.

MODERN ATHENIANS

John Jardine.

Edinburgh, 1841.



PLATE XX.—A.D. 1846.

ALEXANDER KIDSTON, ESQ., LATE OF JAMAICA.

JOHN JARDINE, ESQ., SHERIFF OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.

ALL the information we have been able to gather concerning the first of this pair of Athenians is comprised in the following obituary notice, dated August 1850:—"At 22 Queen Street, on the 15th inst., Alexander Kidston, Esq., late of Jamaica, in the 88th year of his age." It may be observed that the address corresponds with that of "the Vampire" (see page 11 *supra*), Mr. Bindon Blood, who deserted his house there in 1842; and as Mr. Kidston's name was then first inserted in the Directory, the presumption is that he was a fresh importation from the torrid zone. In the etching he looks pretty brisk for one of his years, as if the usual soaking in rum, "with capsicum, ginger, and cloves," had not completely hardened his liver. Now in the cool shade of Queen Street he patters along the pavement with head erect "to snuff the caller air," wafted in his direction from the Fifian coast, across the blue Forth which intervenes.

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His companion in the picture, although verging on threescore and ten, was really Mr. Kidston's junior by about fourteen years. JOHN JARDINE, Advocate, is an old acquaintance of the reader's—or at least ought to be, if he is familiar with *Kay's Edinburgh Portraits*; for there we find that in 1811 Mr. Jardine had the high honour to become a subject of Kay's pencil. He is introduced as one of "twelve advocates who plead without wigs," whose heads are represented on one sheet, and there he appears in the society of Francis Jeffrey, Walter Scott, Adam Gillies, and other shining lights of that era.

His father was Professor George Jardine of Glasgow University, a distinguished man in his day, and author of a work on "philosophical

education." Our subject was born in 1777, and being an *only* son was no doubt esteemed a "broth of a boy." He was educated for the Scottish Bar, and admitted a member thereof in 1799, when he became animated with the spirit of those liberal-minded young advocates of the period who founded the *Edinburgh Review*, and ranked as a Whig member of the faculty. In 1802 he married the only daughter of the deceased James Bruce of Kinnaird, the celebrated Abyssinian traveller, by whom he had a considerable family. Her only brother succeeded to the paternal estate, and died in 1810, leaving an only daughter, through whose marriage the Kinnaird property passed into another line. Mr. Jardine was presented by the Earl Grey administration to the Sheriffdom of Ross and Cromarty, which he retained till his death in 1850. His house in Edinburgh was at No. 9 Great King Street.





*N° 21.*

John Menzies.

**MODERN ATHENIANS**

Rev. Thomas Guthrie.

*Edinburgh, 1841*



PLATE XXI.—A.D. 1839.

JOHN MENZIES, ESQ., OF PITFODELS.

REV. THOMAS GUTHRIE, M.A., OLD GREYFRIARS CHURCH.

IN his endeavour to infuse as much fun as possible into this print, Mr. Crombie has been enticed into the province of caricature to an extent beyond any other instance in the whole series. With whatever degree of fidelity or exaggeration the face and figure of old Pitfodels may be executed, the delineation of "Lang Tam" is really that of a scarecrow. The "lean and hungry look" of the Presbyterian minister seems to be here intended as a foil to the opposite embodiment of pampered grossness—the traditionary emblem of that Roman hierarchy so greatly venerated by the worthy man thus overloaded with "too solid flesh."

Mr. JOHN MENZIES died at his residence in the south end of Bruntsfield Links, on 11th October 1843, at the age of eighty-seven, but we believe that only the closing ten years or thereby of his life were passed in Edinburgh. A passage from the journal of Henry (Lord) Cockburn thus refers to the earlier days of that period:—"15th March 1835. Nothing has of late shocked some people in Edinburgh, or entertained others, more than the appearance of a regular Catholic Nunnery, with its small chambers, its chapel, and its Sisters of Charity. It has been built at Whitehouse, near Bruntsfield Links, from funds supplied by old Menzies of Pitfodels, a Catholic Aberdeenshire laird.—16th June 1835. This monastic establishment, called St. Margaret's Convent, was solemnly dedicated to-day with all the pomp that Romanism can as yet command in Scotland. Three English ladies of good birth and education were entered as novices, and took the white veil."

Lord Cockburn is only half correct in saying that St. Margaret's Convent was built from funds supplied by Mr. Menzies: he did not contribute to the cost of the alterations on the old mansion of Whitehouse

when it was first prepared for the reception of a few nuns brought over from France. The residence of Mr. Menzies, down to about 1830, was at his own estate, Blairs' House, near Aberdeen, which thereafter, as the result of his generous donation to the Church, was converted into a college for the training of youths destined for the priesthood. Bishop Paterson was then R.C. Vicar-apostolic of the Eastern District. When Mr. Menzies removed his residence to Edinburgh he dwelt in York Place under the care of Bishop Gillis, with whom he went to Greenhill Cottage when St. Margaret's Convent had been opened; and he became the benefactor of that institution, by bequeathing in perpetuity for its benefit his farm of Charleston in Aberdeenshire.

It soon transpired, after the death of Mr. Menzies, that he had appointed Bishop Gillis his executor and trustee over his various benefactions for the propagation of that faith which to him was the most precious jewel in God's universe. The Bishop happened to be on the Continent at the time, which caused a few weeks' delay in regard to a public demonstration he was desirous to make on the occasion of the funeral. The *Courant* of 4th November 1843 gives the following account of that ceremonial:—"The public obsequies of the late Mr. Menzies of Pitfodels took place on Thursday last. Bishop Gillis presided at a funeral service in the forenoon, in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel, Broughton Street, which was attended by a large number of friends and members of the church, together with the Brethren of the Holy Guild of Saint Joseph. The service being completed about half-past one o'clock, the procession was formed along York Place, consisting of members of the Roman Catholic persuasion, followed by the Brethren of the Holy Guild with their robes and staffs of office. About one half of these walked solemnly before, and the remainder behind, the coffin, which was conveyed on a bier surmounted by a silver crucifix. Lighted lamps were carried behind the bier, and then immediately followed the empty carriage of the deceased, attended by a number of men carrying lighted torches. Fifteen mourning coaches followed, each drawn by four horses, conveying the Bishop, the priests, and friends of the deceased. At the head of York Place the procession turned by St. Andrew Street into Princes Street, and thence along the Lothian Road, Leven Street, and Bruntsfield Links, to St. Margaret's Convent, where the remains were deposited with further solemnities."

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The REV. THOMAS GUTHRIE came from a family of credit and respectability in the town of Brechin, in Forfarshire, which is said to trace its descent in a collateral line from the Rev. James Guthrie of Stirling, who, in the time of King Charles II., was tried for high treason and beheaded. He was born in 1803, the fifth son of Mr. David Guthrie, a banker, and for some time Provost of Brechin. After finishing his education at the University of Edinburgh he was licensed as a preacher of the Scottish Church Establishment, and, during his probationership, occupied some years between travelling abroad and assisting his father at home in the banking-house. In 1830, having been presented to the parish of Arbirlot, in his own neighbourhood, by Lord Panmure, he laboured there till 1837, when he was induced to accept a call to Edinburgh as colleague of the Rev. John Sym of Old Greyfriars. The result of his preaching in that venerable place of worship was to fill it to overflowing, and a condition of his appointment being that Old Greyfriars must be uncollegiated so soon as a new church could be built, to which he would be transferred, Mr. Guthrie was shifted to the newly-erected place of worship, called St. John's, in Victoria Street, on 28th October 1841. He there soon gathered a very full congregation, and his style of preaching, enlivened with a profusion of picturesque illustrations, was characterised by unusual earnestness and fluency, and kept steadily growing on the popular taste. He had thrown in his lot with the Non-Intrusion party, and, in 1839, published a lively tract on the Intrusion of Ministers, which, together with platform and other efforts, forwarded the cause which then seemed of paramount importance, both in ecclesiastical courts and at the firesides of kirk-loving Scotland. As a platform speaker he was naturally enabled to give freer play than in the pulpit to that fancy and strong sense of humour which was in him so prominent a characteristic.

At the Disruption, in May 1843, Mr. Guthrie, with nearly his whole congregation, left the Establishment, and, until a splendid new church could be erected and made ready for them, they assembled in the Wesleyan Chapel, Nicolson Square. When the new fabric was completed the popular ministrations of its pastor caused it to be crammed on all occasions of service, even to the lobbies and staircases, and few strangers who visited the city went away satisfied unless they remained over Sunday to form part of his audience, or at least obtain a sight of him. When the Disruption excitement had been somewhat allayed, Mr. Guthrie very rarely took part in the proceedings of Church Courts ; but to his powerful advo-

cacy was committed the scheme of raising funds to purchase ground and erect manses for country ministers who adhered to the Free Church. In fulfilment of this object he travelled all over Scotland, addressing meetings and arousing enthusiasm on the subject, till his labours resulted in contributions amounting to above £100,000. This great work, which laid the foundation of the success of the Free Church, has, in our view, never been estimated as it deserved.

But the enterprise with which Mr. Guthrie's name at length became chiefly associated was the formation of an institution named by him "Ragged Schools," having for its object the providing an asylum and school for outcast, homeless children who might otherwise have grown up to become pests to society. These were decently clad, fed, and educated to the extent embraced within what he termed "the three R's" (that is to say, reading, writing, and arithmetic), and no farther, except the *sine qua non* provision that Bible instruction, according to the "use and wont" in Scottish parish schools, was added to these elements of tuition. He held strongly that the institution came to stand *in loco parentis*, and, as a matter of course, the consent of parents or natural guardians of those waifs—whenever such could be traced—was obtained prior to their admission. The only element of exclusiveness that was ever alleged against the institution lay in the obvious necessity of imparting rudimentary religious instruction; but the children of Roman Catholics were eligible for admission in common with those allied to any other religious, or irreligious, persuasion whatever. That undertaking was crowned with great success, and subsists in lively operation at the present day.

In 1849 the University of Edinburgh, in recognition of the eminent gifts of Dr. Guthrie, conferred on him the degree of D.D. His unremitting labours at length occasioned a serious breakdown in his health, and for more than a year about this time he was laid aside from public duty. Those symptoms of heart-disease, of which he was never afterwards entirely free, began to be apparent, and with the view of relieving his pastoral exertions, Dr. Hanna was, in 1850, settled in the congregation as his colleague. During several years thereafter he took his turn in the pulpit ministrations; but in 1864, in consequence of very threatening manifestations, his physicians interdicted him from further preaching. Arrangements were accordingly made to admit of his retiring altogether from active ministerial work. The Rev. George Philip was appointed colleague to Dr. Hanna, and some time thereafter, through the latter's retirement, Mr. Philip became sole pastor of the congregation.

Dr. Guthrie had published in 1855 a series of discourses entitled *The Gospel in Ezekiel*, which work was followed in 1858 by another series, headed *Christ, and the Inheritance of the Saints*. To these succeeded in 1862 a third series, called *The Way of Life*; and such was the popularity and extraordinary extent of the sale of these volumes, that those who had hitherto regarded sermons as a heavy and unmarketable commodity were much taken by surprise at the result. In succession to Dr. Candlish, Dr. Guthrie was chosen Moderator of the Free General Assembly of 1862; and after his final retirement in 1864 his congregation testified their gratitude by presenting him with the house No. 12 Salisbury Road, in which he resided until his death. A general contribution was also set in operation, which resulted in the presentation to him of a testimonial, consisting of a silver tea-service, accompanied by a donation of above £5000. These were formally presented on 20th February 1865.

Henry (Lord) Cockburn was a great admirer of the character and eloquence of Dr. Guthrie, and his published Journal contains the following appreciative estimate of his qualifications:—"Next to Chalmers, Guthrie is now the best pulpit orator in Scotland. He is full of pictures and passion, and drops gracefully down from the most soaring flights to the most familiar illustration. But his true charm lies in his simple sincerity and in his elevated and luminous expositions of divine truth and of human life. Practical and natural, homely but not vulgar, passionate but not vehement, with perfect self-possession, and always generous and devoted, he shows wonderful power as a preacher. His language and accent are very Scotch, and his gesture, which seems as unstudied as a child's, is the most graceful I have ever seen in a public speaker. He deals in the broad, expository, Ovidian page, and is comprehended and felt by the poor woman on the steps of his pulpit as thoroughly as by the intelligent strangers who attend to listen to his eloquence. Everything he does or says glows with a frank, gallant warm-heartedness, rendered more delightful by a boyish simplicity of air and style. He is tall, dark, cheerful, and conversable. He became 'Free' when the *Establishment* left the Church of Scotland, and was one of the lights whose loss left the 'Auld Kirk' in deplorable eclipse. Though a Whig in his opinions, he practically eschews politics, and in matters religious is perhaps the least illiberal of clergymen." It would be easy to quote many telling passages from the sermons and speeches of Dr. Guthrie in illustration of his peculiar style, but our restricted space affords room for only a very brief

example. Take this for instance, on the text Eccles. i. 10, "Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new?"—"I am here reminded of a thrilling discourse that was delivered by a young minister while on a visit to this city a few years ago. It was in every respect worthy of one whose ministrations since then have been so greatly blest in their results. That, however, did not save it from the adverse judgment of a critic who was present. As soon as the sermon was concluded this 'modern Athenian' turned round to our informant sitting beside him, and said, with a shrug of his shoulders, in a tone bordering on contempt—'Pshaw! there is nothing new there!' A refined critic indeed! Fancy a man to whom I offer a rose fresh plucked from the parterre, dyed in the richest hues, breathing the most fragrant odour, with the dew-drops still shining like diamonds on its pure bosom, tossing it from him with an air of contempt—to say, 'Pshaw! there is nothing new there!' *This* were not more absurd than *that*. New? Anything in religion that professes to be new is to be regarded with grave suspicion."

Guthrie was also noted for sagacious expressions on matters of everyday practice, and some of these are held in remembrance for their drollness. During the "Convocation" in Roxburgh Place Chapel preparatory to the Disruption, the question of the future ownership of the many extension churches, which had been reared by the Non-Intrusion party, was discussed. It was foreseen that these would be claimed as the property of the "residuaries," and when it came to Guthrie's turn to speak on the topic, he said, "It is a custom with a distressed army who are unable to carry off their guns, to *spike* them; therefore I hold that if we cannot carry these erections along with us, we ought to spike them—that is, let us lay a heavy burden of debt on them, and wish our successors meikle luck o' their acquisition!" Some will remember that in the excitement which immediately followed the great exodus, a deputation of the Free brethren were sent to America to raise contributions to help the good cause, and they pushed their way down south among the Slave States, where they were petted and loaded with gifts of money. When they returned with proofs of their success, an outcry was raised against the Free Church for encouraging slavery by that act, and the very boys in the streets shouted after the ministers, "Send back the money!" which words were also chalked on the outer walls of their kirks. Guthrie's memorable retort was, "Show us the blood on the bawbees, and we'll soon send back the money!" And in connection with this affair the cele-



brated orator, George Thompson, was sent down to Edinburgh by the Anti-Slavery Society to improve the occasion, which he did with a vengeance.

That Dr. Guthrie's merits were appreciated in the highest quarters is evidenced by the fact that on the occasion of the marriage of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne, he was honoured by an invitation to be present at the marriage ceremonial, and at the Queen's own request was presented to her, and gratified with a kiss of the Royal hand. To this must be added the circumstance that three days prior to his death a telegram from the Queen was received by his family, containing kind inquiries concerning his condition. He died at St. Leonards-on-Sea in Sussex on 24th February 1873, and his remains were conveyed home and interred in ground selected by himself in a choice portion of the Grange Cemetery.





122.

James Ayton.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Alexander Robertson.

Edinburgh, 1847.



PLATE XXII.—A.D. 1843.

JAMES AYTOUN, ESQ., ADVOCATE.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, ESQ., MUSIC-SELLER.

HERE we have a cartoon of "the Giant and the Pigmy," the former a heavily made "friend of the people" who offered his services to represent this city in Parliament as a Radical reformer, in one of the earlier elections which followed the passing of the Reform Bill; and the other, a dandy little manikin who had thriven so well in his calling of music-selling and music-teaching, that he was enabled to buy the pretty estate of Eldin, in the neighbourhood of the city. The point of the picture is not very obvious except on the score of contrast exhibited in the respective structural development of the two Athenians. Mr. Robertson contemplates with wonder the gigantic proportions of the people's candidate, as if he were inspecting a Mammoth or Brogdignagian set up for exhibition.

JAMES AYTOUN, advocate, who resided along with his sisters at No. 39 Heriot Row when the sketch was made, came to the Bar in 1818; but so far as we are aware, he did not make much effort to distinguish himself as a member of the Faculty, although he certainly could deliver a rousing speech from the hustings. He was a younger son of Major-General Roger Aytoun of Inchdairney in Fifeshire, who figures in *Kay's Edinburgh Portraits*, vol. ii. p. 195, as a powerfully made man of six feet four inches high, and of whom some anecdotes are there given relating to his physical prowess. The father, who is said to have represented the ancient family of "Aytoun of that ilk" in Berwickshire, died at Inchdairney in 1810, leaving a considerably large family, large in more senses than one, like Sir John Sinclair, who could show "thirty-six feet of daughter." Mr. James Aytoun received a good education, and evinced some literary abilities, although he was considered a somewhat rough diamond. We can recollect of his producing a brochure that has since become scarce,

and much prized by collectors accordingly, consisting of translations from the Scotch of Robert Burns into the French vernacular. They comprised *Tam o' Shanter*, the *Twa Dogs*, and other humorous pieces, and were very amusing to those familiar with both languages. The year 1827 or 1828 would be the time of that publication ; but not till the year 1834 did the public of Edinburgh know or see much of Mr. Aytoun. Jeffrey and Abercromby had been the members of Parliament for the city since the month of December following the passing of the Reform Bill, and in consequence of Jeffrey's promotion to the Bench in May 1834, his seat became vacant. The Tories regarded the opportunity as suitable to make another effort to fill the vacancy with "one of themselves," and brought forth Mr. Learmonth, a former Lord Provost ; and the time was also reckoned opportune by the Radical party, who set up Mr. James Aytoun. The Government being at a loss to find a seat for their Attorney-General, who had tried Dudley and failed, recommended him to attempt Edinburgh ; so down came Sir John Campbell, a Scotchman, but quite a stranger to the citizens. This election, which was deemed of vital importance to the Ministry of the time, led to the greatest excitement throughout the city, and a fortnight's hot canvas crowned by two days of polling produced the following result—

CAMPBELL . . . . .	1932
LEARMONTH . . . . .	1402
AYTOUN . . . . .	480

Poor Aytoun appeared on the hustings at the public declaration of the state of matters, and in the most magniloquent periods told the assembled crowd that he considered the moral victory to be on his side with his honest 480 voters—that his principles were certain to triumph in the end, and although their numeric strength at present seemed small as a grain of mustard-seed, it would soon become a mighty tree and the constituency of the city would lodge in its branches ! In the summer following Earl Grey, having retired from public life, was invited to a public banquet in Edinburgh, which invitation he was pleased to accept, and on 15th September the great festival was held, in a temporary pavilion designed by Hamilton, on the play-ground of the High School. It turned out a great success, and a day to be remembered in the city ; but the Radicals resolved that on that day of the year following something equally worthy of remembrance should be witnessed in Edinburgh. In pursuance of that resolution Daniel O'Connell, M.P., the Irish Liberator, was brought

to the city on 17th September 1835, and marshalled to the Calton Hill by Mr. Aytoun and his committee, where, from the greensward, he addressed an immense gathering with his accustomed eloquence. In the afternoon a dinner was given on the occasion in Tanfield Hall, Canonmills, presided over by Mr. Aytoun, and the flow of the oratory kept pace at least with the flow of the wine.

After this demonstration, Mr. Aytoun became a member of the Town Council, in which capacity he quietly pursued a very moderate course until July 1841, when he entered the lists of political warfare anew, as Radical candidate for the representation of the Stirling Burghs in Parliament. He did not obtain the seat, but had the satisfaction of seeing some twenty-five of the most flaming Tories in Stirlingshire record their votes in his favour—for extremes have a tendency to unite on such occasions. By and by Mr. Aytoun went to reside in London, where we shall not attempt to follow him. We had reckoned him a defunct man long before the following announcement attracted our attention:—"1881, died at Kensington on 5th April, James Aytoun, Esq., of Capletrae, Advocate, aged eighty-four."

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ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, Esq., of Eldin, for about thirty years prior to his death had a saloon for the exhibition and sale of musical instruments at No. 39 Princes Street, besides which, in connection with his house, first at No. 13 George Street, thereafter in Queen Street No. 4, and latterly No. 26, he carried on what he termed an "Academy" for teaching vocal and instrumental music. He was also credited with considerable skill in musical composition, or, at all events, as a harmoniser and arranger of popular melodies, and was much patronised as a teacher of the art. Among the citizens he made himself prominent as a steady and consistent supporter of Liberal principles, and an active promoter of public works for the benefit or adornment of the city. He acted as chairman of the auxiliary committee for erecting the Scott Monument, and for nearly three years was a member of the Town Council. In private life he was kind-hearted, social, open, and generous, and loved the society of men of talent. A few years before his death he purchased the estate of Eldin, near Lasswade, once the property of the eccentric John Clerk (Lord) Eldin. Mr. Robertson died 16th August 1847, about the age of sixty.







N° 23.

Rev. J.W. Ferguson.

MODERN ATHENAINS

Bishop Terrot.

Edinburgh, 1847.



PLATE XXIII.—A.D. 1844.

REV. JOHN W. FERGUSON, ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHAPEL.

RIGHT REV. CHARLES H. TERROT, D.D.,  
EPISCOPAL BISHOP OF EDINBURGH.

HERE the artist gives us remarkably striking likenesses of the two worthy clergymen represented; the one a devout curate who had been placed in a homely little chapel in Roxburgh Place about the year 1836, and was removed to that of St. James's, in Broughton Place, subsequent to the date of the etching; the other being the accomplished Bishop of his diocese, who ministered in St. Paul's, York Place. The placid and contemplative countenance of Bishop Terrot here contrasts very pleasantly with that of the demure and severe-looking curate.

The Rev. JOHN WILLIAM FERGUSON, A.M., notwithstanding his austere physiognomy, was really an amiable and kind-hearted man. His age might be about thirty-five years at this period. His stern expression, irregular features, clear complexion, sandy-red hair, and large blue eyes, gave a kind of pre-Raphaelite weirdness to his aspect. He was, however, a beautiful reader of the Service-book, and his discourses were solemn and evangelical, with a strong tincture of Calvinism in their doctrine. Perhaps it was the intensity of his earnestness as a religionist which produced the severity of his expression referred to. A crushing sense of the primitive depravity of man's nature seemed to haunt him continually; for he seriously reckoned and solemnly taught that we can glorify God and enjoy him for ever, only by a continual clinging to the revealed means of escape from "the wrath to come." Under the awful responsibility of his office, charged with this message to mankind, he was never known to smile! On one occasion when we happened to be present in his chapel we were struck with the expressive power of his frenzied eyes rolling about as he emphasised a solemn utterance; thereupon a child

under four years sitting with his mother in one of the pews, screamed out—"Oh take me away! he's making faces at me wi' his een!"

The sequel of Mr. Ferguson's brief career was a very sad one. It was, we think, about 1850, that his sphere of ministration was changed from the south to the north side of the town. He had resided first in Buccleuch Place, then in George Square—as a lodger, we suppose, for we never reckoned him likely to be a married person—and he now shifted his dwelling to 10 Gayfield Square. He was "earnest in season and out of season" in his new charge, as he had been in the old, and was "never weary in well-doing," according to his own sense of pastoral duty. About the close of the year 1853 an extraordinary opportunity of usefulness in his vocation presented itself to his acceptance, which he impulsively seized in the truest spirit of benevolence. An English seaman resident in Leith, who had been tried and convicted under a charge of murdering his wife, was condemned to be executed on Monday 9th January 1854. The man's name was Cumming, and he admitted having given his wife an angry stroke under exasperating provocation, some time prior to her death in October preceding; but pleaded that her death really was occasioned by her falling repeatedly down the stair of their dwelling during intoxication, she being a habitual drunkard. When lodged in the prison cell as a convict, he professed to be an Episcopalian, which circumstance being reported to Mr. Ferguson, he at once made his way to the prison to administer what comfort he could in the poor man's condition. Having closely interrogated the prisoner and arrived at a conviction of his sincere penitence and Christian belief, he exerted himself to the utmost to have the judgment reconsidered at the Home Office, and a memorial in the convict's behalf, with a statement supported by fresh evidence, was largely signed by influential persons and forwarded. Not until the Saturday preceding the Monday fixed for execution did a telegram arrive in reply to the application, and it gave a respite of fourteen days to make further examination of the case. Calcraft had arrived to prepare his operations, and his services not being then required he forthwith returned to London. The Justiciary Court, in consideration of the respite, had adjourned the execution till Wednesday, 25th January, failing the arrival of a reprieve before that date. Meanwhile Mr. Ferguson had been unremitting in his daily attendance on the convict during many weeks, the utmost caution at same time being exercised to prevent exciting the poor man's hopes; and when the days of the respite had nearly expired, another telegram

was received from the Home Office announcing that the law must take its course, because the further evidence adduced was considered not sufficient to justify a recall or modification of the sentence. The kind-hearted pastor was much affected by this cold frustration of his own hopes, and could do no more than abide the more closely by the poor victim while a throb of life remained. Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, he continued to visit and console the doomed man at every hour he could snatch from his other avocations. On the last night he was at the "lock-up" till near midnight, and again on Wednesday morning by six o'clock; in two hours more he supported him up the steep wynd to the scaffold, where he shook hands with him before the fatal bolt was withdrawn, bidding him address his own last words to God.

The shock which the nervous system of the kind pastor must have sustained, through his intimate relations with these protracted and most dismal proceedings could not otherwise than produce dire effects on his delicate frame. We know not if he ever entered his pulpit again. Prostrated he was for two months, and then he died. The cause of his death, however, we may trust, was not hid from God. The cold announcement of the newspaper obituary is as follows:—"March 1854—At 10 Gayfield Square, on the 27th inst., the Rev. John William Ferguson, A.M., minister of St. James's Episcopal Chapel."

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The Rev. CHARLES HUGHES TERROT, D.D., was born 19th September 1790. This fact we get from his tombstone in the burial-ground of the New Calton; and by the way, we are sorry to see that memorial of the respected Bishop sadly off the plumb, and likely to fall away if longer neglected. It is just ten years since his remains were deposited there, with some little pomp and circumstance, as he well merited; but why the present neglect? The fabric itself is not quite so substantial and elegant as it ought originally to have been; but we observe it had been a private memorial put up by himself in September 1855, to mark the spot of his wife's interment; and now when the husband joined her, it must have been conceived to be "good enough for the nonce."

We are unable to supply any information regarding the Bishop's parentage and education; but being trained for service in the Episcopal Church, he soon exhibited a partiality for what in the Presbyterian body is termed Moderatism, and among Episcopalians, the Broad, or Common-

sense side in Church policy. In proof of this we need only refer to a poem of his composition at the age of twenty-nine, entitled in the catalogue from which we derive the fact—"Common Sense, a poem, by Charles Hughes Terrot, D.D., Edinburgh, 1819, octavo." Throughout life, however, he abstained from controversy, although his own views and practice differed as much from those of his curate, Mr. Ferguson (above described), on the one side, as from the ritualistic proclivities of his other curate of St. George's chapel (also one of Crombie's "Modern Athenians" to be afterwards noticed), on the other.

Bishop Terrot had in his scholarship an ability, a dignity, that could not only dispense with external trappings in Divine worship, but find a benevolent excuse for narrow-minded emotion if prompted by earnestness. He made no war on these, but his strong right hand gently modified them. He possessed intellectual qualities that are rarely met in combination. He was profound in the higher mathematics, and equally great in the classics; while he had a pregnant wit that played its part vividly in conversation, whether the subject consisted of social trifles, or the learning of the schools. He was a man of sincere and earnest purpose, although he did not choose always to let his intentions be transparently seen; indeed, it was his humour to present a sarcastic and satirical front to the world. He had that gentle, placid, almost feminine appearance, and polished urbanity of manner, which is so happily rendered in the etching; and these qualities coming in aid of his sarcastic powers, enabled him at times to administer a snubbing with the least possible offence or pain in comparison with its sharpness. When solicited to preside at the examination of one of the ecclesiastical schools, conducted on principles which he did not heartily approve, his answer was—"I like a scholar, and I like a good dinner; but I don't like to frequent the places where either are being prepared." One day he was button-holed by a blue-stocking whose small head was saturated with sentimental benevolence and philanthropy; she babbled against vivisection, and the injustice of punishing human beings and other animals who follow the bent of "God-given, irresistible instincts." Instead of contradicting her, he led her to the window and drew her attention to a ragged boy in the street, who had just caught a flea among his underclothing that had been tormenting him, "You see that boy. It was the flea's irresistible instinct to bite him: it is the boy's irresistible instinct to crack that flea. Barabbas has an irresistible instinct to murder me; and I have an irresistible instinct to hang Barabbas."

His death happened in his eighty-second year, on 2d April 1872, and in a kindly notice by a leading journalist, to which we are largely indebted in constructing the present article, it is truly said "the good Bishop would have been more missed had he died twenty years earlier." He and the late Dean Ramsay belonged to a race of clergymen now almost extinct in the Scottish Episcopalian Church. These occupied a middle position betwixt the two extremes into which that communion has now paired off; and the golden mean of their old-fashioned "common-sense" has been withdrawn from currency.

Dr. Terrot had been an involuntary recluse in his old age, many of those who enjoyed the raciness of his social life having departed before him. He was an admirable teller of anecdotes, like his brother the Dean, especially if he had witnessed the event narrated. One of these was an incident that befell a dignitary of the Church—perhaps himself. An Irish beggar was imploring charity, making use of a painful amount of sacred adjurations, and appeals to Divine Personalities. The dignified clergyman looked him solemnly in the face—"No! I will not give relief to one who appeals to me so irreverently; but I will give you what is of more value to you in your present state of mind, namely, the advice not to take the name of the Deity in vain when you seek charity." The Irishman answers—"Bless yer Riv'rence! and is it *in vain* I've been employing that holy name? Whose blame *that* is yer Riv'rence needn't be tould!"







Nº 24.

George Thomson.

MODERN ATHENIANS

J. F. Williams.

Edinburgh, 1841.



PLATE XXIV.—A.D. 1841.

GEORGE THOMSON, ESQ., MUSICAL CORRESPONDENT OF BURNS.

J. F. WILLIAMS, ESQ., R.S.A.

MR. CROMBIE'S motive in bringing together these two gentlemen is not very obvious. In respect of age, there was a disparity between them of at least a quarter century; but of recent years they must of necessity have frequently met within the walls of the Royal Institution, where, in different departments, they were officially employed. Mr. Thomson's ruling weakness is said to have been avarice, and indeed the sketch of his countenance and figure given here strongly indicate "grippiness" of character. Treasurer Williams, on the other hand, was one of the gruffest of men in his ordinary department, although those who knew him most intimately declared his bark to be more serious than his bite.

The father of GEORGE THOMSON was a sheriff-officer in Edinburgh, which may possibly, through ideal association, have suggested the "grippiness" above referred to as an attribute of the son. Nevertheless, according to the son's own account, the father did not reside in Edinburgh till the year 1776, previous to which he had been resident in Banff, and prior to that in Limekilns, Fifeshire, where in 1759 the son George was born. In regard to the father's occupation while on the north side of the River Forth, the son says "he taught in a school, and after trying some mercantile means of living without success, moved with his family to Edinburgh." Success most certainly did attend them there. George, then at the age of seventeen, after four years' clerking in the offices of Writers to the Signet, was appointed (through the influence of Home, author of the tragedy of *Douglas*) junior clerk to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures, etc., in 1780. Soon thereafter, through the death of the principal clerk, he succeeded to the higher office, which he retained at a comfortable salary until his retirement in 1839, at the age of eighty.

The name of George Thomson, in consequence of his published correspondence with Robert Burns, has now been long a familiar one over the world, and is likely to continue so for a longer period than is possible to contemplate. Fortunately for him, the duties connected with his situation afforded him a wide margin of leisure every day, which he devoted to amateur indulgence of a taste for music. In his violin recreations he preferred slow and pathetic Scotch music to the dancing measures of popular celebrity, and about the year 1792 he formed a resolution to publish a selection of the finest Scottish melodies with new accompaniments by masters in the art, and freshly composed words in all instances where the older songs are objectionable. Armed with a written introduction by an Edinburgh friend of the poet, he communicated his purpose to Burns, then recently located in the town of Dumfries, who was pleased with the scheme, and promised to furnish him with new songs when required. The result is now a matter of history. Between October 1792 and the poet's death in July 1796, Thomson was supplied with about fifty matchless new songs, besides older ones revised and remodelled. Only five of these songs had been included in that portion of Thomson's publication produced while Burns was alive; and he soon became aware that a new and full edition of the poet's works was in project for the benefit of his widow and children, and that the songs furnished specially for him would be expected by Dr. Currie to be included therein. Mr. Thomson's transactions with the dying poet and his dealings in the interest of the family after his decease have been the subject of much conflicting discussion, and his own frequently renewed published defences have not tended to still the troubled waters of controversy. In the latest of those defences (written in his eightieth year) he says:—"Had I been a selfish or avaricious man, I had a fair opportunity, upon the death of the poet, to put money into my pocket; for I might have published for my own behoof all the beautiful lyrics he had written for me, the original MSS. of which were in my possession. But instead of doing this, I was no sooner informed they were wanted than I felt it my duty to put the family at once in possession of all the songs and the correspondence, etc." Even more pointedly than as above had he written to Lockhart in 1829:—"It was not till some years posterior to the death, and till Dr. Currie had published all the MS. songs which I put into his hands, that I myself brought out the songs along with the music."

It can scarcely be conceived that a man in Thomson's position durst

venture to hazard published statements so hopelessly contradicted by his own recorded acts. So soon as he became aware that he would be required to surrender the songs and letters for publication in behalf of the family, he pushed forward his own undertaking with indecent haste, and betwixt the close of 1797 and the close of 1799 published *for his own behoof* the cream of the songs, numbering thirty-nine (not including the five previously given). The registered dates of these issues are "August 1798," twenty-one songs of Burns—"July 1799," forty songs of Burns,—sixty-one songs in all; but of these, twenty-two were borrowed from Johnson's Museum. In regard to the correspondence, he demanded back all his own letters to the poet, and stipulated that the arrangement of that correspondence must be executed by himself. All which was submitted to, and as a consequence he had the opportunity to reconstruct his own letters, forming an essential item in the correspondence between Burns and Thomson. The manuscripts of the poet are still preserved intact, but those of his musical correspondent are nowhere to be seen!

In connection with the matters discussed in the two preceding paragraphs, it is but fair to record here the circumstance that on 3d March 1847 a silver vase, subscribed for by a hundred gentlemen within and without the city, was presented to Mr. Thomson at a public dinner presided over by Lord Cockburn, who spoke eloquently in his defence against the conventional prejudices of which he still continued to be the victim. George Thomson and his family were no doubt soothed by such benevolent manifestations, but we fear that neither the silver vase, nor that intelligent sympathy, nor his own thriving exchequer, ever secured to him that settled peace of mind which his extreme old age so much required. On retiring from the Trustees' Office in 1839 he resolved to abandon Edinburgh for a London residence among his grand and great-grandchildren. Jeffrey, writing from London on 4th March 1841, says:—"Made a pilgrimage the other day to the new abode of old George Thomson, whom I found marvelously entire, though *affecting to regret* his too late transplantation from Edinburgh." A daughter of Thomson in 1814 became the wife of George Hogarth, Esq., W.S., who afterwards published a "History of Music." A daughter of Mrs. Hogarth became the wife of the renowned Charles Dickens, but the marriage in the end turned out to be a very unhappy one, closing in mutual separation, "incompatibility of tastes and temper" bearing the blame of all the bitterness. Poor old Thomson could not rest in London, so he returned to Edinburgh, obtained the consolatory

demonstration referred to, went down to reside in Leith Links to escape the east wind, and expired in the neighbourhood of the gas-works on 18th February 1851, at the age of ninety-four—*Telle est la vie!*

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J. F. WILLIAMS, Esq., R.S.A., was a teacher of drawing, a painter in oil, and a prolific exhibitor of rather muddy-looking sea-pieces on the walls of the great annual exhibition-rooms of the Royal Scottish Academy, of whose funds he was treasurer down to the date of his death. He is not to be confounded with the immortal "Grecian Williams," who was "a pear of a different tree." Nevertheless, our subject was extensively patronised, and his pictures in the exhibition were all invariably marked "sold" before its close. We are not aware that he ever tried his hand as an animal painter, and yet, from some cause or other, the students at the Academy dubbed him "brute Williams," probably by way of distinguishing him from their favourite "Grecian" namesake of his.

His residence was at No. 121 Princes Street, and we fancy we can now discover a reason for Mr. Crombie having matched him with George Thomson in the present etching. They both were honoured in their day with "a public dinner and a testimonial." We read as follows in the *Scotsman* of March 8, 1838:—"A number of artists and friends of J. F. Williams, Esq., S.A., entertained him yesterday to dinner, on which occasion he was presented with a superb silver snuff-box, as a token of esteem and friendship. A suitable address was delivered by Horatio Macculloch, S.A." He died while on a visit to Glasgow on 24th October 1846, at the age of sixty-one. His health had been visibly declining since his wife's death a few months previously.



N<sup>o</sup> 25.

Lord Jeffrey

MODERN ATHENIANS

Lord Murray

Edinburgh, 1847.





PLATE XXV.—A.D. 1844.

THE HON. FRANCIS (LORD) JEFFREY.

SIR JOHN ARCHIBALD (LORD) MURRAY.

THE artist here presents us with striking likenesses of two inseparable companions, who certainly exhibit a strong contrast in bodily configuration. In the face of the one we read that intuitive quickness of intellect for which he was so remarkable ; while in the countenance of the other we see the upright honesty and loveliness of his nature, conjoined with unfailing intelligence and sagacity. Both of them Whigs also of tried consistency, reared though they had been in the conserves of Torydom, and afterwards transplanted by the force of their own will and the attractiveness of Freedom, to the more congenial soil where through life they flourished.

The father of FRANCIS JEFFREY, the greatest of British critics, was George Jeffrey, a Depute-Clerk of Session, residing at No. 7 Charles Street, who having moved and had his being in an atmosphere of conventional conservatism, never dreamed that any child of his could ever become a Whig, much less a leader of Whigs, into warfare against the principles he had been taught to revere as the bulwark of our national strength. His distinguished son, born on 23d October 1773, was called to the Bar in 1794. As a member of the Faculty Walter Scott was two years his senior, and Brougham, Cockburn, Horner, Murray, and Moncreiff, soon followed him into the list. The first number of the great *Edinburgh Review* was published in October 1802, while Scott was engaged in collecting and producing his *Border Minstrelsy*, having as yet scarcely declared himself on politics beyond accepting a Sheriffship through the Buccleuch and Melville interest. The starting of a Liberal magazine, to serve at once as a political organ of his party, and an independent censor and guide in literature and science, was the result

of a combination of several aspiring young minds chiefly connected with the law courts of Edinburgh, but at all events Jeffrey became its editor in its earlier stages and continued so during twenty-six years. On 1st November 1801 Jeffrey had married an amiable half-cousin of his own, Catharine Wilson by name, and commenced housekeeping in the third flat of No. 18 Buccleuch Place, from which, however, he removed in the following year to 62 Queen Street. It was there the birth of a son and its death within a month happened in autumn of 1802, which domestic bereavement was followed by the heavier one of the mother's death three years thereafter, leaving him a widower childless. He occupied that dwelling till 1810, when he removed to a main-door house in George Street, No. 92, in which he passed the next seventeen years of his life, excepting that the summers of 1812, 1813, and 1814 were enjoyed at Hatton House, nine miles west of the city, a decayed mansion and garden-grounds, once a seat of Lord Lauderdale, which he rented during that period.

Meanwhile the success of the *Edinburgh Review* was unprecedented, having become the arbiter of taste in literature and the standard-bearer of Liberalism throughout the British dominions. That it brought its editor occasional cares and trouble need not be wondered at, and all the world is familiar with the fact that in 1806, after a sharp review of an early publication of Moore, the lyrical poet, he had to engage in a duel with him in London, which was rendered bloodless by the timely intervention of the police. In 1810 the personal charms of a young American lady, Miss Charlotte Wilkes, then on a visit to this city, inspired him with a wish to venture another stake in the lottery of wedlock. A younger brother of his was then a citizen of New York, and through him having received favourable accounts regarding the lady and her connections, he did not suffer his admiration of her to fade from his thoughts, although the accomplishment of his wishes concerning her was deferred for a few years. On August 29, 1813, he romantically sailed for New York on his matrimonial adventure, and early in October following became the husband of his Charlotte, who was a grand-niece of the once famous John Wilkes, M.P. for Aylesbury, her father being then a banker in New York. He honeymooned there till 22d January 1815, when he sailed on his return voyage, reaching home by the middle of February. The union was a happy one, and lasted thirty-four years. In the spring of 1815 the charming retreat of Craigcrook was made

ready for occupation, and there all his future summers were enjoyed ; the house in George Street being retained as a town residence till 1827, when he removed to 24 Moray Place.

The wheel of fortune seemed now to be turning in favour of the Whigs, and on 2d July 1829 he was unanimously chosen Dean of Faculty in room of Moncreiff, who was then raised to the Bench. For the remainder of his life political and judicial concerns were chiefly to engross his thoughts : with the ninety-eighth number of the *Edinburgh Review* (June 1829) his editorship of that Magazine came to a close, and Mr. Macvey Napier was appointed his successor in that responsible post. The Whigs came fairly into office in December 1830, when Jeffrey by pre-eminence was made Lord Advocate, Cockburn at the same time being appointed Solicitor-General ; but the former was now confronted with formidable difficulties through being bound, by the rule of his new office, to find a seat in Parliament at his own costs. His biographer tells us that the emoluments of a Lord Advocate did not then exceed £3000 per annum, and yet betwixt December 1830 and May 1832 this necessity of finding seats in Parliament cost Jeffrey nearly £10,000. In the last Parliamentary election within the city under the old *régime* (3d May 1831), Jeffrey was induced to stand in opposition to Dundas of Arniston, the Town Council being the only electors ; and although he was backed by a petition signed by 17,000 householders, Dundas carried the election by a majority of three. The announcement of the result incensed the citizens so much that some rioting ensued, in which Lord Provost Allan was nearly thrown over the North Bridge ; the military were called out and the Riot Act was read ; but the Lord Advocate made his appearance and ordered the soldiers to be withdrawn, by which the excitement was allayed. The resignation of the Grey Administration was caused on 8th May 1832, by the Lords rejecting the Reform Bill which had been passed by the Commons ; Wellington was ordered by the Crown to form a Ministry, but he failed to effect this, and the former Ministry was replaced, after which the Bill passed as a matter of course. By the Reform Act Edinburgh was allowed two members, and Jeffrey was returned at the head of the poll in the next election, which happened in December following ; the other seat was given to the Hon. James Abercromby in opposition to Mr. Hunter Blair, the Tory candidate, who polled only 1519 votes to Abercromby's 3865, while Jeffrey numbered 4058. It is due to the electors to state that the two successful members

on that occasion were returned free of costs ; but Jeffrey's parliamentary career was destined to be of brief duration, he being promoted to the Bench on 7th June 1834 as successor to Lord Craigie.

Our space cannot afford much to be said regarding the many happy summers spent by Jeffrey with his little household and his numerous welcome guests at Craigcrook. His only daughter, Charlotte, was married on 27th June 1838 to William Empson, Esq., Professor of Law, East India College, Haileybury ; and on 14th July of the year following Lord Jeffrey wrote thus joyously to a friend :—" We baptized little Charley yesterday with perfect success. It would have done your heart good to have seen with what earnestness she renounced the devil, and the vain pomp and glory of the world as she lay sputtering off the cold water in the arms of Bishop Terrot. The ceremony was at two o'clock, and then we had lunch and champagne ; and then all the party reeled out, some to the greenwood shade, and some to the bowling-green, where I won three shillings from Cockburn (quite fairly) by the sweat of my brow, and then we had a jolly dinner."

On 22d November 1842, his fatigues as Lord Ordinary were brought to a conclusion when he took his seat in the First Division, composed of Lord President Boyle, Lords Fullerton, Mackenzie, and himself. His last appearance in Court was on 22d January 1850 ; for on the evening of that day he was suddenly taken ill with feverish cold, accompanied by bronchitis, and lived only till the 26th.

His wife, Charlotte Wilkes, did not survive the loss of him even four months, her death taking place at Haileybury, Herts, on 18th May 1850 ; and his son-in-law, Professor Empson, who had been editor of the *Edinburgh Review* since Macvey Napier's death in 1847, died there also on 10th December 1851. The sequel of Mrs. Empson's life and that of " little Charley " has not come to our knowledge.

Jeffrey had reached the age of seventy-seven when, from his post on the Bench, upon Tuesday the 22d, he went home to die peaceably on Saturday the 26th. Many fine tributes to his memory and many glowing estimates of his genius have been uttered and written, and in closing this notice we shall do so in the words of one who knew him thoroughly, and possessed the gift of expressing his opinions beyond most men of his day. Lord Cockburn thus wrote concerning Jeffrey deceased (whom he followed to a like bed of rest in four years thereafter) :—" After many years more experience, I adhere to my opinion that, head and heart

included, his was the finest nature I have ever known. In him intuitive quickness of intellect was combined with almost unerring soundness, and the highest condition of reasoning powers with the richest embellishments of fancy. His moral taste was so elevated and so pure, that life with all its interest and honours contained nothing that could be even felt as a temptation. His love lapped others so naturally in its folds that his mind was probably never chilled by harsh emotion, even towards those he was trying to overpower. But the truest and best words can give no more idea of him than a statue does of a living man."

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The grandfather of Sir JOHN ARCHIBALD (Lord) MURRAY was by profession an advocate, who is described by Dr. William Chambers, in his *History of Peeblesshire*, as "Archibald Murray, brother of Alexander the laird, second in descent from Blackbarony;" and it is further said that "he acquired the estate of Nisbet, two miles west from Edinburgh, which he named 'Murrayfield,' a designation which it still retains." By his wife, a daughter of Lord William Hay, he had a son, Alexander, who, adopting the same profession, was raised to the Bench in 1782, taking the title of "Lord Henderland," from an estate in Meggat of that name which had come into the possession of the family. The wife of Lord Henderland was Catharine Lindsay, a niece of the Earl of Mansfield, and a daughter of Sir Alexander Lindsay, Baronet, of Evelick, whose other daughter, Margaret, was married to Allan Ramsay, the portrait painter, and son of the poet. Lord Henderland died in 1795, survived by his lady till 1828, their issue being two sons, of whom the subject of this notice was the younger; his elder brother being William Murray, who succeeded to the estate of Henderland, and died without issue in 1854. This explains the nature of the relationship betwixt the late Lord Murray and Allan Ramsay, which puzzled not a few when the former succeeded to the ownership of *Ramsay Lodge* in 1854, and provided funds to set up the author of the *Gentle Shepherd* in marble within the Princes Street Gardens. The poet's grandson, Major-General Ramsay, and Lord Murray were full maternal cousins, and the General being without issue disposed the poet's house to his cousin, Murray of Henderland, at whose decease the other brother (Lord Murray) came into possession.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lord Murray's intention was to have the statue of Ramsay placed on a handsome terrace, which he caused to be erected on the steep slope directly behind Ramsay

John Archibald Murray, represented in the etching, was born in 1788, and after a year or two of tuition at the High School, was sent, along with his elder brother, to Westminster School; which part of his education was of the utmost advantage to him, as his early correspondence with Francis Horner sufficiently testifies. In the year 1800 he entered as an advocate of the Scottish Bar, along with Brougham, Horner, and Cockburn, in whose fellowship, together with that of Jeffrey, Cranston, Fullerton, Moncreiff, and some others, he helped to build up that Scottish school of Liberal politics which ultimately became so powerful and glorious in its achievements. From the beginning he was on the staff of the *Edinburgh Review* in one contributory form or another; and his aid is amply recognised by Jeffrey in a letter to Horner of 20th January 1805:—"This number is out, thank Heaven, without any assistance from Horner! or even from Brougham, Smith, Brown, Allan, Thomson, or any other of the gallant supporters who voted their blood and treasure for its assistance! I have great consolation in the Friday Club, and a thousand resources from Murray. The club is a scheme of Murray's to make all the respectable part of the Bar who are not too old to be accessible acquainted with each other, in order that the good spirit which is in them—and which runs risk of being corrupted, quelled, or overawed when it is single—may be strengthened by communication and union; and give to the body hereafter something of a higher and more independent character than it has lately borne."

In 1826 he married Mary, eldest daughter of William Rigby, Esq., Oldfield Hall, Cheshire, by whom he had one son of the brightest promise, whose loss in early life the parents were fated to suffer. This was almost the one calamity that clouded the current of his otherwise happy life; it was said of him that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, which, if ever exchanged, was for one of gold. If he had been

Lodge facing Princes Street; and some of our readers will recollect that a rough stucco model of the poet's figure, placed on a temporary wooden pedestal, stood there in all weathers for several years. The sculptor (Sir John Steell) took so long to execute the statue after receiving the commission that his patron was dead six years before its completion! (March 25, 1865, was the date of the inauguration.) Lady Murray, however, survived to look after that matter; but Fate would not consent to have the statue placed as originally intended, and one stormy night in the beginning of March 1860 the foundation of the terrace slipped, and the whole mass of building, on which several thousands of pounds had been expended, tumbled down the slope into the valley below.

ambitious of distinction in literature and science he had talents sufficient to secure that result ; but he was too happy to strive to be great. He was gifted by nature with rare qualities as an orator, for along with a power of conveying the most trenchant and stinging satire in the most mellifluous tones and words, his manly declamation flowed with sonorous grace from the stores of a cultivated mind, heightened by a refined humour which never deserted him. Sir Walter Scott thus refers in his diary, 1827, to a party of Whigs he met at Murray's hospitable board :— "Went to dine with John Murray, where I met his brother 'Henderland,' Jeffrey, Cockburn, Rutherford, and others of that file. Very pleasant—capital good cheer and excellent wine—much laugh and fun. I do not know how it is, but when I am out with a party of my opposition friends the day is often merrier than with my own set. Is it because they are cleverer? Jeffrey and Harry Cockburn are, to be sure, very extraordinary men ; yet it cannot be owing to that entirely. I believe both parties meet with the feeling of something like novelty—we have not worn out our jests in daily contact. There is also a disposition on such occasions to be courteous, and, of course, to be pleased."

In December 1832, when Jeffrey and Abercromby were elected Members for Edinburgh, immediately after the passing of the Reform Bill, John Archibald Murray was triumphantly returned for the Leith Burghs, and was borne in a splendid chair from Leith to his house at 126 George Street. He was re-elected for Leith on three several occasions thereafter, one of these being when he was appointed Lord Advocate in 1834, on his friend Jeffrey being promoted to the Bench. In 1839 a like honour was conferred on Murray, who received the further compliment of knighthood at the same time. He was a fair lawyer and a good classical scholar, without affecting profundity on any subject ; and few were the topics on which, with gay banter or sharp retort, he could not throw a clearer or a stronger light. It is said that while on the bench he kept always lying beside him a copy of *Bell's Principles*. Thus if his legal erudition was but moderate, he had not the hypocrisy to pretend to be what he was not. He sat for twenty years as a judge, and died after ten days' illness at the age of eighty.







*N.º 26.*

Lord Dundrennan.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Adam Anderson.

*Edinburgh. 1847.*



PLATE XXVI.—A.D. 1844.

THOMAS MAITLAND, ESQ., AFTERWARDS  
“LORD DUNDRENNAN.”

ADAM ANDERSON, ESQ., AFTERWARDS “LORD ANDERSON.”

THE two advocates here represented were of opposite politics, and respectively held or surrendered the office of Solicitor-General from time to time about this period, according to the “outs and ins” of the Government of their choice. Neither of them at this date were above fifty, and the powerful bodily frame of Maitland seemed to promise a long extension of life; on the other hand, the attenuated form of his companion suggested a scarcity of room for the healthy play of his lungs. They were both raised to the Bench shortly afterwards; but neither of them survived the honourable preferment beyond a year.

THOMAS MAITLAND was the eldest son of Adam Maitland, Esq., of Dundrennan, in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. He was born in October 1792, and called to the Bar in 1813, where, after a successful practice during quarter of a century, his merits were at length recognised by those who have the dispensing of Court of Session honours. When Lord Ivory obtained promotion in 1840, Maitland was appointed Solicitor-General by the new Administration, which office, however, he had to demit in September 1841, in consequence of the Tories again coming into a shortlived power. On the death of his father in July 1843 he succeeded to the paternal estate, and shortly thereafter was elected Member of Parliament for his native stewartry; and when the Whigs resumed office in 1846 he was reappointed Solicitor-General, and re-elected to his seat in Parliament.

He had married, in 1815, Isabella Graham M'Dowall, third daughter of M'Dowall of Garthland; and it was remarkable of this connection that her two elder sisters had, respectively, married Henry Cockburn and his

brother judge, Lord Fullerton. The new Solicitor-General and M.P. was subjected to a heavy calamity in the loss of his eldest daughter in Edinburgh, on 24th April 1846. In his practice at the Bar, Maitland was considered to show uncommon felicity in his style of "stating a case," although he was deficient in aptness of reply, wanting in some measure that fertility of resource so necessary in a successful pleader. He was more fitted to shine as a sound lawyer when he gave a deliberate opinion of a difficult case submitted to him as counsel. He was greatly devoted to literature, especially of the antiquarian kind, and possessed one of the best-selected and most magnificent private libraries in the kingdom. He materially helped his distinguished friend Jeffrey in 1843 by selecting and arranging his *Contributions to the Edinburgh Review*, which were published in November of that year.

He was raised to the Bench in 1850, when Jeffrey's death produced a vacancy, and chose to take the title of "Lord Dundrennan." Lord Cockburn, his brother-in-law, expressed in his Journal considerable dissatisfaction with this revival of what he esteemed an absurd national custom arising out of the vanity of being "a laird of the soil." Thus he wrote—"I hope he will be the last who will show the infirmity of changing his own name—preferring that of his *clods* in mounting the judgment-seat. He is henceforth to be called 'Dundrennan,'—Nonsense!"

For some years Lord Dundrennan had been subject to frequent visitations of gout; and in addition to a severe attack of this complaint, he was struck with paralysis about a week before his death. That event happened while he temporarily stayed with his brother in Melville Street during important repairs of his own house, No. 122 George Street. He died on 10th June 1851, at the age of fifty-eight. In the following December his grand library was submitted to the auctioneer's hammer, and separated into atoms.

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ADAM ANDERSON, Solicitor-General, Dean of Faculty, and ultimately Judge, belonged to a branch of the Moredun family in the county of Edinburgh. Born in 1797, he came to the Bar in 1818, and in a few years thereafter was appointed Sheriff of Perthshire. During the brief elevation of the Conservatives, from November 1834 to April 1835, he was made Solicitor-General, which office he was soon called to resign. Again, however, in 1842, on the death of Sir William Rae, he was reinstated in that

office, and a few years thereafter had the honour of being elected Dean of Faculty. In that capacity his amiable disposition and gentle manners made him a great favourite with the younger members of the Bar, whom he took every opportunity to encourage in the most courteous and engaging way. Never a very keen politician, the concerns of his own profession and general literature had more attractions for him than party contentions. The fall of the Russell Government in 1852 made him Lord Advocate, and before the close of that year he was raised to the Bench. But even more brief than the momentary triumph of the Protectionists was Lord Anderson's tenure of his crowning honour. At the age of fifty-six he died on 28th September 1853, while on a visit to London.

Lord Cockburn's observation in connection with that unlooked-for event is as follows:—"Lord Anderson's personal amiableness and official good sense made him a general favourite; and everybody has been saddened by the unexpected close of his short career. It is Dundrennan's case over again!" His remains were brought to Edinburgh and interred in the Moredun vault under St. John's Episcopal Chapel.





*N°27*

William Galloway.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Patrick Neill.

*Edinburgh, 1847.*





PLATE XXVII.—A.D. 1844.

WILLIAM GALLAWAY, Esq., ACCOUNTANT.

PATRICK NEILL, Esq., LL.D.

THE artist here depicts two characteristic-looking "Athenians," who were very familiarly known to their fellow-citizens during the first half of the present century. The one was more than usually tall, while the other was quite as much under the average stature; the difference in their respective ages did not amount to five years, and both died in the same year on the near side of fourscore.

The name of Mr. WILLIAM GALLAWAY is not found in connection with any of the public offices in the city usually noted in the almanacs, but appears year after year in the Directory, where he is designated an accountant, at the address No. 12 Elder Street. After 1840 his address is changed to 8 Annandale Street; where, along with his own, we find the name of his son, William Davenport Gallaway, of the Inland Revenue Office. The death of the father is announced as having happened at the latter address, on 11th April 1851, in his eightieth year. The son continued to occupy the same house for ten years thereafter, and then removed to 16 Pilrig Street, where he resided till his death, so recently as 30th June 1882, at the age of seventy.

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PATRICK NEILL, Esq., LL.D., was by trade a printer, who had an extensive business in the Old Fishmarket Close, which he personally superintended till he was upwards of seventy years old. His ordinary avocations, however, did not prevent him from devoting a large amount of his time and attention to scientific and literary pursuits. Henry (Lord) Cockburn—himself an amateur in gardening—on this subject says in his *Memorials*:—"A still subsisting institution, the Horticultural Society,

arose in 1809. It was chiefly the work of Patrick Neill, a printer, a useful citizen, a most intelligent florist, and author of the article Gardening in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and of various kindred works. The exotics in his little acre-garden at Canonmills put many a grander establishment to the blush. He was also an archæologist, and one of the few defenders of our architectural relics." Mr. Neill, from first to last, held the office of Secretary of that Society, with the Duke of Buccleuch for president; as well as of the *Wernerian Natural History Society*, founded a year earlier, with the University Professor of Natural History as its president, and James Wilson of Woodville for its librarian. The grounds acquired by the *Horticultural Society* were called "Experimental Gardens," on the west side of Inverleith Row, and had the precedence of the present *Botanic Gardens*, which date from 1823. The two gardens were eventually amalgamated, when the Government was induced to acquire the former, after the Society and its objects had fallen somewhat into desuetude.

Edinburgh stands greatly indebted to the tasteful efforts of Dr. Neill for the scheme of the West Princes Street Gardens, and its successful accomplishment. It was about the year 1820, when that portion of the North Loch was drained, and five acres of ground were laid out as garden parterres and planted with seventy-seven thousand various trees and shrubs, under the immediate superintendence of Dr. Neill. It is also proper to record here that what is called "the Flodden Tower" of the old city-wall in the Vennel owes its preservation to Dr. Neill's patriotic exertions, failing which it had been demolished in the rage for "city improvements."

Dr. Neill, although reared in the sectarianism of the *Anti-burghers*, latterly became a devoted adherent of the Establishment, an elder of St. Mary's at Bellevue, and was frequently a Member of the General Assembly. He died at his own little retreat called "Canonmills Cottage," which, with its finely-kept garden, situated as it then was in a dirty village abounding with piggeries and cow-byres and near the malaria of a stagnant loch, was aptly compared to "a jewel in a swine's snout."

His remains were interred in the neighbouring cemetery of Warriston, and the following inscription is found on his tombstone:—"Patrick Neill, Esq., LL.D., Secretary of the Wernerian and Horticultural Societies. Born 25 Oct. 1776. Died 3 Sep. 1851. Distinguished for Literature, Science, Patriotism, Benevolence, and Piety."



*A. 28.*

Rev. M<sup>r</sup>. Russell.

**MODERN ATHENIANS**

Hector M<sup>r</sup>. Neill.

*Edinburgh, 1847.*



PLATE XXVIII.—A.D. 1841.

REV. THOMAS RUSSELL AND HECTOR MACNEILL, ESQ.

AFTER the lapse of forty years, from the time when this pair of Athenians chanced to be so cleverly depicted by our artist, almost no information can be gleaned regarding them. But indeed the etching tells its own story very completely. A poor "sticket minister" craped in full mourning for the loss of a doating mother who "died in the year thirty-nine," is encountered on the street by a fast-looking gentleman of the sporting type, who talks to him very patronisingly, and *flams* him with a yarn about a right of presentation to a certain parish kirk being one of his own ancestral possessions, and which he is quite disposed to exercise in favour of a meritorious probationer like the person he is addressing. The simple-minded aspirant after divine gifts, "believing all things, hoping all things," listens to him with the utmost reverence, and at parting breathes a devotional benediction towards the passing stranger, in whom he now beholds "an angel met unawares."

The Edinburgh Directories of those days afford no clue to the whereabouts or the whomsoever of HECTOR MACNEILL, ESQ., and unfortunately the artist left no notes behind him that we are aware of, concerning the subjects of his etchings—in which particular he did not follow the worthy example of Kay, his predecessor in the same department. We find the name "Hector Macneill of Ugadale" on the roll of certified freeholders in Argyllshire for 1817; and then turning to our City Directory of 1839, we find "George Macneill, Esq., of Ugadale, 43 Melville Street." Taking this and that together, we are led to the conclusion that our "Hector" was a younger son of the now deceased freeholder of 1817, and resided with his elder brother George (heir of Ugadale) at 43 Melville Street. We afterwards discover that this same "George Macneill, Esq., of Ugadale," died at the age of sixty-eight, on 23d February 1861, at 120

Princes Street. Should this theory fail in correctness, we have another to fall back upon, thus—In 1830 “Hector A. Macneill” passed as a W.S., and he appears to have been a son of Captain Archibald Macneill who resided at 8 East Maitland Street in 1845. Then we find Captain Archibald disappears, and in his place—still at 8 Maitland Street—appears from 1861 to 1871, “Captain Hector Macneill;” and we also find that so recently as 1875, “Hector Archibald Macneill, W.S.,” resided at the same address, “8 Maitland Street.” Perhaps, after all, the whole of those Macneills were “of Ugadale.”

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So much for the Hector Macneill who figures in the etching; but what about our minister? The Directories from 1839 to 1843 contain perhaps his name, thus—“Rev. THOMAS RUSSELL, 12 Atholl Place.” This we find to have been a common stair of respectability, where also resided a “Rev. William Taylor” about the same period, both in all likelihood being lodgers, for they belonged to none of the city churches or chapels. As the result of some investigation, we learn that Mr. Ramsay of Barnton employed for some time a resident tutor to aid in the education of his children, whose name and description corresponded with those of our present subject, and who ultimately was in receipt of a small retiring allowance from Mr. Ramsay, and resided in his own lodgings. The poor dependant here represented has finely-formed features, possessing at same time some suggestiveness of mental weakness. He was eccentric, at all events, and very absent-minded, the bow of his hanging crape having been turned as often to the front as the rear, which frequent overlook obtained for him the *nom de plume*, “Crape-foremost.” It is more than likely his death occurred about 1843-44, for he disappeared from the city about that period, “and left not a rack behind.”



*N<sup>o</sup> 29*

W Burn Callender.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Sir C. Menteith.

*Edinburgh, 1847.*





PLATE XXIX.—A.D. 1844.

WILLIAM BURN CALLENDER, ESQ., OF PRESTONHALL.

SIR CHARLES G. S. MENTEATH, BART., OF CLOSEBURN.

IN this Plate we have a Squire of the county of Midlothian and a Baronet of the shire of Dumfries placed opposite each other. The latter had for many years his usual family residence at No. 27 Abercromby Place, while the former could dispense with a house in town, having spurs on his heels and a good horse to render the space of eight or ten miles betwixt the city and his estate a very short one.

Of Mr. WILLIAM BURN CALLENDER we are sadly deficient in materials to make up a notice of reasonable length; for, excepting the bare date and fact of his death on 8th April 1854, not a word is said of him in any of the public journals of the period that have come within our reach. By and by, however, we find the interesting announcement which we copy for the benefit of the curious in such matters:—1856—“The old wines of the late Mr. Burn Callender of Prestonhall were sold on 14th March by Mr. Nisbet at the following quotations:—

Port, vintage	1820,	bottled in	1824,	brought	£12	0	0	per dozen.
”	”	1822	”	1826	”	9	10	0
Claret	”	1822	in magnums	”	11	0	0	”
”	”	1825	”	”	”	12	0	0

Old Whisky brought 30s. per gallon.

A few years further on, under the heading “Celebration of Majority,” we are informed of the rejoicings that took place at Prestonhall on 13th February 1860, on the occasion of J. A. Burn Callender, Esq., eldest son and heir of the late Mr. Burn Callender, having attained the age of twenty-one years; and that the tenantry and others were entertained within the Schoolhouse of Pathhead, Ford, on the afternoon of same day, under the presidency of the parish schoolmaster.

At the present day the name "Claud Hamilton Hamilton" is given in connection with the estate of Prestonhall, while that of "Burn Callender" has disappeared.

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CHARLES GRENVILLE STUART MENTEATH passed as an Advocate in 1794, at the age of twenty-six, although it does not appear that he afterwards practised the law. The Baronetcy and estate of Closeburn, in connection with the family of *Kirkpatrick*, dates from 1685, and still exists; but Sir James Kilpatrick having sold the estate, excepting a mere fragment, about the year 1770, to the Rev. James Stuart Menteath, the Baronetcy thereof merged into the family of Sharpe of Hoddam. Our present subject was the son of the Rev. James Stuart Menteath of Closeburn Hall, who died in 1802, at the age of eighty-six.

It is noticed by Henry (Lord) Cockburn, in his *Memorials of His Time*, that in February 1816 the first respectable public meeting in Edinburgh of the Reforming party for the purpose of controlling Government in political matters was held in Merchants' Hall. On that occasion Mr. Menteath of Closeburn presided, and Jeffrey moved resolutions that were seconded by James Moncreiff, to petition Parliament against the continuance of the property and income tax. Mr. Menteath of Closeburn Hall was created a Baronet in 1838, probably for his services in the Liberal cause. His aquiline visage and attitude represented in the etching is very striking; as with somewhat of the ardour of the old Duke of Wellington, he seems to be pitching in the arguments to his beetle-browed opponent opposite. His death occurred at the age of seventy-nine, on 3d December 1847, whereupon his son, the late Sir James Stuart Menteath (born 1792), succeeded to the estate and the Baronetcy. The latter died in 1870, and was succeeded by the present Sir James Stuart Menteath, who, it is to be observed, has changed the ancient spelling of his surname to "Menteth"! Mansfield, in Ayrshire, became the family seat of the late and the present Sir James, the Dumfriesshire residence having apparently been abandoned.



N.º 30

Robert Hadley.

MODERN ATHENIANS

George Dunlop.

Edinburgh, 1847.



PLATE XXX.—A.D. 1844.

MR. ROBERT HADLEY, OF THE ENGLISH HOTEL.

MR. GEORGE DUNLOP JUN., OF G. AND G. DUNLOP, W.S.

THIS is one of the cleverest etchings of the series. It represents young Dunlop puffing a cigar while in conversation with a fancy stage-coach driver—a good-natured Englishman, whom he and some of his sporting pals had taken a notion to patronise. Hadley piqued himself on his deftness in handling the ribbands of a four-in-hand, which of itself would entitle him to the favourable consideration of members of “the Barnton Club.” His “thunder and lightning” vest, his Jerry hat, and long whip indicate his vocation; while the white-spotted blue neck-tie, and flat-rimmed chapeau of Mr. Dunlop, coupled with the statesman-like gravity of his expression, point him out as one who knows a trifle or two concerning matters hid from the ken of the common herd.

The name of Mr. ROBERT HADLEY is not found in the Edinburgh Directory till 1844, when it is introduced with the designation “coach-proprietor.” Thereafter, down to 1851, he appears as a hotel-keeper at 10 South St. Andrew Street, a corner tenement entered from Meuse Lane, which, with the assistance of a smart wife, he was enabled to open and carry on under the title “English Hotel.” After 1851 Robert Hadley’s name disappears, from which time year after year till 1861 the name of “Mrs. Hadley” is substituted, and thereafter we have “Sieve-wright’s English Hotel,” the name Hadley being no more heard of.

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The firm of G. and G. Dunlop, Writers to the Signet, 53 Great King Street, was one of high standing in the legal profession. Its senior partner, George Dunlop, father of our present subject, was born in 1776, passed as a W.S. in 1807, and died 6th December 1852, aged seventy-six.

His son and namesake was bred to the same profession, and practised as a partner of the firm, but never qualified himself to hold a personal certificate as a procurator. For a few years after his father's death the business was continued under the nominal firm by his assuming a partner possessed of a certificate to practise, and George being married, had his son trained with a view to the continuation of the business. Accordingly his son and namesake passed as a W.S. in 1873, but the father fell into ill-health, and his hopes were thereby frustrated. He died at Leamington in September 1879.



N<sup>o</sup> 31.

John Marshall

MODERN ATHENIANS

Robert Whigham.

*Edinburgh, 1847.*





PLATE XXXI.—A.D. 1845.

JOHN MARSHALL, ESQ., ADVOCATE, AFTERWARDS  
“LORD CURRIEHILL.”

ROBERT WHIGHAM, ESQ., SHERIFF OF PERTHSHIRE.

THE two members of the Bar, here truthfully depicted, worked out their professional career on very different lines. The one, by dint of solid attainments and strong reasoning powers, attended by a capacity and a love for hard work, raised himself from the ranks to a seat on the Bench. The other, born of a wealthy family, had a finished education imparted to him as a matter of course, and his admission to the Bar and onward progress were cheered by powerful interest and early preferment ; his arrival at the highest honour being only made unattainable through a too early death.

JOHN MARSHALL was a native of Wigtonshire, and it is said that, owing to the limited means at his disposal while educating himself for professional life, he performed the journey from his native place to Edinburgh on foot. Born in 1792, he was admitted to the Bar in 1818, and after thirty-four years' labour was elected Dean of the Faculty. In what manner he bridged over the intervening stretch may be gathered from the brief account of him thus given by Lord Cockburn :—“ Politics have so little helped him that until he bought the estate of Curriehill from the gains of his extensive practice, and was thus let into the meetings of the handful of lairds who call themselves ‘the County of Midlothian,’ it was scarcely known that he was tainted with Toryism. Though well informed, he is not graced by literature. He is as little of an orator as a speaking man can be ; and though inwardly as cheerful as merited success, general esteem, and most excellent dispositions can make a reasonable person, his look, his air, and manner are dry, if not grim. Honest, simple, and

affectionate, he is much liked ; for his hard plainness and severe accuracy are softened by great worth. A total absence of all decoration, and of every quality except reasoning power, he has risen not only into extensive employment, but into what is far more difficult, and a severe test of a lawyer's real strength—into large private consultation."

The above estimate of Marshall was committed to writing in Cockburn's private journal a few years before the full recognition of Curriehill's merits was dispensed from the fountain of Court of Session honours. We have stated by anticipation that the Faculty elected him their Dean in 1852 ; and it remains to be added that in November of the same year he was raised to the Bench, where he continued satisfactorily to fulfil its duties for sixteen years. He was esteemed particularly well read up in the laws relating to heritage, and although he possessed no extra-professional accomplishments, he could write precise, clear, and even elegant English, although he possessed little acquaintance with English literature. His interlocutor in the Yelverton case will bear comparison as a matter of literary style with the other able opinions delivered in that cause.

The intelligence of his death on 27th October 1868 was rendered less surprising from the circumstance that a fortnight previously he had retired from office. His wife—a daughter of the Rev. Andrew Bell, parish minister of Crail, predeceased him by two years ; from youth to old age he had allowed himself no relaxation from hard mental labour, and his chief interest in life was gone when he thus retired. For some years, indeed, he had the gratification to see his son and namesake, who was called to the Bar in 1851, steadily advancing in his profession. John Marshall, the second, was in process of time also raised to the same position his father had occupied—and he likewise took the same title, "Lord Curriehill." Brief, however, was his period of service on the Bench, for, at the early age of fifty-four, he died in November 1881.

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ROBERT WHIGHAM, Esq., Advocate, was called to the Bar in 1816, and soon attained a constant and very select practice. His polished urbanity of deportment, accompanied as it was by sterling ability as a lawyer and a pleader, rendered him a general favourite ; and when he was appointed Sheriff of Perthshire, in August 1841, the promotion was

regarded as a step to higher honours. His physical constitution, however, was not robust, and his death took place after a brief illness, at his house 79 Great King Street, at the early age of fifty-four, on 7th March 1849. His remains were interred in the family vault, St. John's Episcopal Burial-ground.





A. 32.

David Tweedie.

MODERN ATHENIANS

*The cowardly presentation of the Brothers!!*

John Tweedie.

Edinburgh, 1847.



PLATE XXXII.—A.D. 1842.

DAVID TWEEDIE, ESQ., AND HIS BROTHER, JOHN TWEEDIE, W.S.

EXCEPT from what the reader sees before him in the etching, we suspect that little information can at this time of day be imparted concerning these "two Dromios" of forty years ago. It is impossible to guess which is the elder brother: the lawyer on the right hand was about sixty-eight years of age at the date of the sketch, although he looks much older, having been bowed down by close application at a writer's desk for more than half a century. The other brother—he of the paunch—looks much fresher, but might have been the senior nevertheless, and successor to the family heritage. Tweedie being a Peeblesshire name, we naturally assume that David's paternal estate lay in that direction, and that many a weighty salmon, and many a plump fowl of his barn-yard were sacrificed to build up his corporation to its present bulk. A shrewd-looking fellow he is, full of health and activity as he stands there listening sympathisingly to John's catalogue of complaints about his distressing cough, his rheumatics, and fifty other ailments that David is personally quite a stranger to. The obituaries of the city newspapers have not recorded the date of David's death, and his name as an individual denizen of modern Athens never appeared in the Directories; from which circumstances we may fairly assume that he had been merely an occasional resident here.

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JOHN TWEEDIE passed as a W.S. in 1795, and assuming his age would be twenty-two at that period, he must have been born in 1773; therefore at his death, on 18th March 1847, his age was seventy-four. His only known address was No. 31 Great King Street, and it cannot be doubted that, under the firm of Tweedie, Graham, and Anderson, an extensive and respectable business was there carried on. His intelligent-

looking brother with the paunch—and with the purse no doubt—would probably be a sleeping partner. Peter Anderson, W.S., 24 Nelson Street, was also in the firm, but he did not very many years survive its dissolution; the other partner was the late Patrick Graham, W.S., who became the Law Agent for the city. What more can be said in explanation of Mr. Crombie's "counterfeit presentment of two brothers"?





1.33

Patrick Shaw

MODERN ATHENIANS

Hercules Robertson.

Edinburgh, 1847.



PLATE XXXIII.—A.D. 1845.

PATRICK SHAW, ESQ., ADVOCATE.

HERCULES ROBERTSON, ESQ., ADVOCATE, AFTERWARDS  
LORD BENHOLME.

IN the present etching, *contrast*, as usual, seems to be the keynote of the artist's theme. The short figure of a very useful Whig lawyer with two legs—one of these, however, made of cork—is set up against a very tall and attenuated Tory in the same profession, whose spindle shanks are matched only by those of John Sheriff in one of the early pictures of this series. Both of these highly respectable members of the Bar were born towards the close of last century within a year of each other, and both survived several years beyond the prescribed limit of threescore and ten.

PATRICK SHAW was born in Ayr in 1796, one of a family of fourteen, of whom, if we mistake not, the beautiful Marion Shaw, so finely noticed by Cockburn in his *Reminiscences*, was one. He had the misfortune in boyhood to meet an accident which cost him the loss of one of his legs; but the painful deprivature did not damp the ardour nor diminish the brave assiduity by which he mastered his education, and subsequently devoted himself to that study and practice in which he earned so much distinction.

In 1819 he was called to the Bar, and within two years thereafter commenced those Court of Session reports which he so long and successfully continued, assisted in the beginning by Mr. James Ballantine and Mr. Alexander Dunlop. In 1824 he began the series of Reports of Decisions in the House of Lords from 1821 downwards, in which latterly he had the aid of Mr. Wilson and Mr. M'Lean. It would be difficult to estimate the value to the legal profession of Mr. Shaw's labours as a reporter in these departments, and not less valuable have been his *Digests of Decisions*, a work of constantly available utility. His relationship

and close intimacy with his brother-in-law, the late Professor George Joseph Bell, tended to enlarge and mature his views, and endow him with special qualifications for legal authorship. Several years prior to his death he was appointed to the office of Sheriff of Chancery, the duties of which he discharged with marked ability and success; and during six years of that period he found leisure to reproduce with careful annotations the great work of his deceased relative, G. J. Bell's *Commentaries of the Law of Scotland*, 6th edition, 1858.

Mr. Shaw resided for many years at 40 Heriot Row, and latterly removed to 30 Charlotte Square, where he died on 12th February 1872, at the age of seventy-six.

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HERCULES J. ROBERTSON, at the date of the etching, was Sheriff of Renfrewshire, which office was bestowed on him in 1842, the same year in which his wife died. His mother, Isabella Scott, was heiress of Benholme and Hedderwick, and his father, George Robertson, consequently adopted the surname Robertson-Scott; but the son and heir, born in 1795, adhered to his father's name when he was admitted to the Bar in 1817. He married in 1829 Anne W. Hope, youngest daughter of Charles Hope, Lord Justice Clerk, afterwards Lord President, but she was spared to him only thirteen years, and he continued a widower during the remaining thirty-two years of his life. He was raised to the Bench in 1853 under the title "Lord Benholme," and at the time of his death, on 15th September 1874, was understood to be the oldest of the Supreme Judges in Britain. Paralysis was the immediate cause of his death, his illness lasting only two days, so that he may be said to have died in harness.

One of the obituary notices from the press contains the observation that "his strong moral sense came to the aid of an intellect of high, although maybe not of the highest, judicial order, and rendered him an excellent judge. He never joked, but although habitually serious, could relish a good joke and smile at anything funny—a beautiful half-angelic smile, as if gilded by autumnal sunsets; and he was a loving student of the fine arts, especially in the department of pathetic music."

His remains were laid in the pretty burial terrace at the east end of St. John's Episcopal Chapel, and the spot is marked by an elegant marble monumental stone.



*N. 34*

Rev. Dr. Chalmers.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Rev. Principal Lee.

*Edinburgh, 1847.*



PLATE XXXIV.—A.D. 1843.

THE REV. THOMAS CHALMERS, D.D.

THE VERY REV. PRINCIPAL JOHN LEE, LL.D., D.D.

THE idea of introducing these two distinguished Churchmen on one plate was naturally suggested by their respective official positions—the one as head of the Free Church of Scotland and its New College, and the other as Principal of the State-endowed University, and a prominent pillar of the Old Church Establishment. The two men, however, were in most respects as dissimilar in character and qualifications as it is possible for two members of the same profession to be.

Dr. CHALMERS was born on March 17, 1780, at Anstruther in Fife, of which place his father is said to have been the parish schoolmaster. In youth he was more remarkable for fun and frolic than for steady application as a scholar, and not until his third session at the University did he evince promise of uncommon intellectual powers. He then displayed a wonderful aptitude for mathematical science, which marked him throughout life, and, perhaps through the notice he then attracted in his class, he never afterwards was known to relapse into mental indolence. In 1799, while still under the statutory age, he was licensed as a preacher, and his probationership for nearly three years was passed as assistant to the minister of Cavers, near Hawick. Perhaps under the promptings of necessity, or it may be to satisfy his impulse for mental work, he there eked out his slender income by lecturing on chemistry and natural philosophy to the young men of the neighbourhood, where he became a great favourite, and even then was regarded as a wonderful genius. His pupils in Hawick would walk out to Cavers on Sundays to hear him preach, and one of his discourses was so striking that they subscribed to have it printed. For lack of a black surplice, he addressed his audience from the pulpit in a dressing-gown of gray duffel, which

unfortunately on one occasion gave way under the arm-pits during the fervour of his declamation. He returned to Fife, and after an engagement as mathematical assistant in his native University of St. Andrews, a parish kirk at length was found for him, and in May 1803 he was ordained minister of Kilmany, a few miles northward from the classic town.

Henry (Lord) Cockburn, in a published reference to Chalmers, thus remarked :—“ I have known him long, and pretty familiarly. He used to leave his parish of Kilmany twice or thrice a week to lecture at St. Andrews on chemistry, and even on moral and political philosophy. It was at a considerably later period, however, that his powers were developed in full force. In spite of the external disadvantages of a bad figure, voice, gesture, and look, with an unusual plainness of Scotch accent, he is a great orator ; for effect, indeed, at the moment of speaking, he is unapproached in our day. His magic lies in the concentrated intensity which agitates every fibre of the man, and brings out his meaning by words and emphases of significant force. He rolls his magnificent periods clearly and irresistibly along, and kindles the whole composition with living fire. Jeffrey’s observation that Chalmers ‘ buries his adversaries under fragments of burning mountains ’ gives the only image that suggests an idea of his eloquent imagination and terrible energy. In almost every other orator who delivers from a written address the force and freshness of immediate conception is wanting ; but Chalmers can bring forth the iron he has already forged and moulded—as hissing red-hot as when it first came from the furnace.”

Chalmers was translated to the Tron Church of Glasgow in 1815, and thereafter to St. John’s in the same city, where vast multitudes were attracted by the fame of his extraordinary eloquence. His Tron Church lectures on Astronomy considered in connection with Religion, were delivered in addition to his ordinary pulpit work, and perhaps no discourses in the English language ever evoked such a measure of acceptance by all grades of the community. His calculating instincts for spreading gospel knowledge and enlarging the boundaries of the Church’s usefulness were exemplified in a little Appendix he subjoined to his printed Sermon on the death of the Princess Charlotte, published in 1817, in which he unfolded a scheme for adding twenty churches to the number then existing in Glasgow. From that city he was transferred to St. Andrews, where in 1823 he had been elected to the Chair of Moral Philosophy,



and not long thereafter he was appointed Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, in which honoured position he continued till the Disruption in 1843. The struggle between the Church courts and the civil power which culminated in that event had been protracted through at least ten anxious years, and Dr. Chalmers, from first to last, was the chief inspirer, if not the dictator, of that great movement.

The Roman Catholic Emancipation Bill had passed in 1829, and although that measure commended itself to the moral consciousness of the liberal-minded of every class, as an act of justice towards a large portion of the inhabitants of this kingdom—especially since the completed union with Ireland in the beginning of the century—much reasonable alarm was thereby caused to evangelical Protestants. A felt necessity had arisen for demanding from the Legislature a national scheme of general education, and it was foreseen that if the elements of Christian religion were to be taught in the Government schools constant collisions would arise through the conflicting interests of Romanism and of Protestantism. It was foreseen that in order to secure fair play to all, in the administration of the public funds applied to education, *either all sects of religionists must share equally in the endowment ; or all endowments for religious purposes must be forbidden.* By either alternative the monarch's coronation oath is given to the winds, so far as the State protection of Protestantism to the exclusion of Romanism is concerned ; therefore the safest, indeed the only safe, horn of the dilemma to cling to is *the latter*. But unfortunately that alternative, which is the only one by which peace can be secured to the nation, is the least likely to become palatable ; either to the protesting but hopeful Romanists, or to the existing endowed establishments. When finally located in Edinburgh, the calculating genius of Chalmers was called into full play in the Church courts. "The object of mathematical science," he said, "is to make us comprehend magnitude and the proportions of magnitude ; but there are two magnitudes in which we are chiefly concerned—the littleness of time and the magnitude of eternity!" The consideration of that momentous concern seemed to become the key of all his actings onward from this period. He had reached the age of fifty-three when the celebrated "Veto Act" passed in the General Assembly, its object being to debar from entering the pulpits and parochial charges of Scotland any preacher whose views concerning time and eternity did not correspond with his own and that of his party. By this means, and by his schemes of church-extension and creation of

*quoad sacra* charges, he multiplied the votes of his party, so that they could carry any measure the Church-leaders saw fit to propose. Undoubtedly the sincerest belief in the Bible as a direct revelation from God lay at the root of all their movements ; yet it is a striking fact that the same Assembly which passed the *Veto* Act also passed a resolution (in view of a general Education Bill) to the effect "that no class of the population shall obtain education at the public expense unless it be taken along with instruction in the Protestant religion." Thus they argued—"We will tolerate Romanists as we tolerate Heathens and Atheists ; but we cannot commit the sin of granting them the educational privileges of other subjects who contribute to the State funds *because they do not believe as we believe.*"

When Dr. Chalmers and his party found it necessary to break with the State rather than their views should suffer violence, the genius of the great leader of the Non-Intrusionists shone forth to admiration when he unfolded his plans whereby the "spiritual independence" of the pastors could be upheld, even while depending on their adherents for temporal support ; the only instruments of compulsion being the chords of love and the comely power of attractiveness. If all churchmen who profess to believe in the Divine source *and living power* of their religion would take courage from the accomplished triumph of Dr. Chalmers's sustentation scheme, State endowments for religious ends would be unnecessary, and we should have the rich and poor, each denomination by itself, contributing together under the promptings of good-will, and the provision for approved pastors would be neither inadequate nor precarious.

About the end of March 1847 Dr. Chalmers was summoned to London to give evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons regarding the refusal of sites for Free kirks, and other matters connected with the movements he had a chief hand in organising in Scotland. After spending some time with friends in England he reached his home on Friday, 25th May ; and on Sunday thereafter he retired to rest in the evening, about his usual hour when expecting to be early at work in the morning. By arrangement made with a brother professor, a messenger called about eight on Monday morning to receive some papers Dr. Chalmers had promised to have ready. As he had not rung that morning for his accustomed cup of coffee, nor had been heard stirring, it was feared that something unusual had occurred. The domestic, after knock-

ing, without response, entered his room and found him in bed, with his head resting on raised-up pillows, in a half-reclining, half-sitting posture, *in the sleep of death*. Others followed to witness the awfully unexpected translation of the venerable man. The air of majesty on his countenance appeared to exceed that of his living face, and seemed to say—"Lo! I am gone up!"

He died at the age of sixty-seven, and the ceremony of interment took place on Friday, 4th June. The procession which accompanied his honoured remains to the Grange Cemetery was perhaps the largest and most imposing that ever attended a similar solemnity within the city.

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PRINCIPAL LEE, of the Edinburgh University, was born of humble parentage in the neighbourhood of Torwoodlee on Gala Water, in November 1779. Like many a distinguished man of his profession, he had to fight his way, first to an education, and then to its fruits. While in attendance at the College of Edinburgh, and for several years after obtaining his degree of M.A., he managed to sustain himself and pay his fees by means of engaging in private tuition and occasional efforts of a literary kind. Somewhat flighty and unstable, he turned his attention to the study of medicine, passed as an M.D., and obtained an appointment in the Army Hospital Service. Thereafter he took to Law, and in his own mercurial way applied himself to acquire a knowledge of its principles with some practical end in view; and then, to complete his educational equipment, served for a while in the ranks as a volunteer. In the end his views were determinately turned towards the Church as his future professional arena, and in 1807, having obtained his license as a preacher, his first appointment was to the pastorship of a Presbyterian Chapel in London. He did not continue there beyond a few months, for in course of the same year he was called to the town of Peebles and ordained as parish minister there. In 1812 he was appointed Professor of Church History at St. Andrews, and on three several occasions was chosen as Rector of St. Mary's College there. In 1823, on the occasion of his accepting a call to the Canongate Church in Edinburgh, the degree of D.D. was conferred on him by St. Andrews University. In 1825 he was translated from the Canongate to Lady Yester's, and became a Chaplain in Ordinary to the King in 1830. From thence he was translated to the Old Church of St. Giles in 1834, and appointed to a Deanery of

the Chapel Royal of Stirling in 1840, while in same year he was elected Principal of the University of Edinburgh. The last on the list of his honours we need to enumerate is that of his Moderatorship of the General Assembly 1844, the first appointment thereto after the Establishment had been deserted by the flower of its clergy.

In regard to the learned Principal's literary achievements, not much can be said. In his earlier days he had been harnessed to the compiling wheel, and wrote several articles for *Brewster's Encyclopædia*, besides other fugitive pieces, to which his efforts were drawn more from necessity than choice. When at length he attained a position of laboriously-earned literary leisure, he grew very fastidious in his style of composition, which can best be described by saying it was remarkable for its perfectness. He had much practice, as Clerk of the General Assembly, in drawing up "Pastoral Addresses," and these were characterised by Dr. Chalmers as "very saintly and beautiful compositions." He was the author of a published "Letter on the Annuity Tax," 1834; and three years thereafter some irritating differences having intervened betwixt him and Chalmers, he brought out an octavo pamphlet headed, "Refutation of Charges brought against the Author hereof by the Rev. Dr. Chalmers." His own "Lectures on Church History" were published the year after his decease.

Principal Lee was twice married—first in 1813, to a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Masson, Dunnichan, by whom he had William, afterwards parish minister of Roxburgh, and several other children; among whom is the present Lord Lee of the Court of Session. She died in 1833; and by a second marriage, in 1841, to Miss Charlotte Wright, he had no family. Lord Cockburn's Journal contains the following amusing entry regarding Dr. Lee:—"Dec. 21, 1845. Dining yesterday at Mr. Macvey Napier's, I heard some curious things, and among these the fact that the Right Reverend Father in God, Dr. John Lee, Principal of the College of Edinburgh, after succeeding last session in getting University Tests continued, is now objecting to allow a marble statue by Flaxman of the Poet Burns to be placed in our College Library, because Burns had not a college education—Poor Shakespeare!"

No memoir of Dr. Lee would be complete without some notice of his inordinate propensity to accumulate books, his craving for that kind of luxury being omnivorous—not only as an epicure, but a glutton. At one time he might be seen higgling at a bookstall over a discoloured and

tattered sixpenny pamphlet ; and at another time would be found in a select auction-room disconcerting and astonishing the most affluent collectors by the exorbitant sum he would offer for some rare and remarkable edition. Dr. Hill Burton, in his admirably written volume called *The Book-Hunter*, gives a sketch of the Principal under a transparent pseudonym which we must quote here :—" You see him now—tall, straight, and meagre, but with a grim dignity in his air which warms into benignity as he inspects a pretty, clean little Elzevir, or a tall, portly Stephens in fine condition, concluding his inward estimate of the prize with a peculiar grunting chuckle, known by the initiated to be an important announcement.

" His is no doubt one of the milder and more inoffensive types of the malady we have been attempting to describe, but still a thoroughly confirmed and obstinate case. Its parallel to the classes who are to be taken charge of by their wiser neighbours is only too close and awful ; for have not the female members of his household sometimes been known to search after him from bookstall to bookstall, just as the mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters, of other lost men hunt them through their favourite howffs or sponging-houses ? Then again, can we forget that occasion of his going to London to be examined by a committee of the House of Commons, when he suddenly disappeared with all his money in his pocket and returned nearly penniless, followed by a hired waggon containing 372 copies of rare editions of the Bible ? "

So confused and confusing did the Principal's collection become, that when he required to verify some quotation or make examination of some important particular in course of his literary investigations, he was under the necessity of borrowing the book he was in search of, from the meagre but carefully arranged library of a friend, and on such occasions he would explain, by way of apology, that he had seven or eight copies of the same work at home, but somehow or other, he had failed to get his hands on the book just when he wanted it !

The eccentric Principal died in the University, at the age of seventy-nine, on May 2, 1859, and his remains were laid in his own family sepulchre in the churchyard of St. Cuthbert's. A journalist of the period in reference to his departure thus feelingly remarked :—" Rarely shall we meet in our journey through life one who bore great endowments with so little presumption and worldly pride, and who, in the exercise of great powers, has left behind him the memory of so blameless a career."





1. 35.

Capt Thomas Fraser

MODERN ALIENIANS

Major Pearson.

Edinburgh, 1847





PLATE XXXV.—A.D. 1845.

CAPTAIN THOMAS FRASER, R.N., PORTOBELLO.

MAJOR JAMES PEARSON, HON. E.I.C.S.

OF these two veterans the first died only twelve years ago, and of course is still well remembered in the little town where he resided for a quarter century prior to his decease. The other died at his house, No. 29 Drummond Place, so far back as thirty-four years ago, and information concerning him is not readily to be obtained. The artist has succeeded well in portraying their characteristic faces and figures, and the etching shows great freedom of execution.

CAPTAIN FRASER, R.N., who seems to have been a bachelor, resided at No. 19 Brighton Place, Portobello, along with a maiden sister, Joanna Fraser, his senior by several years, and whose death took place in 1867, at the age of seventy-seven. The parents of this couple had resided in the same house in the earlier part of the present century, as we are informed by the inscription at their burial-place in the New Calton, thus :—

“THE BURIAL-GROUND OF REAR-ADMIRAL THOMAS FRASER.

His father, Vice-Admiral Alexander Fraser, died 29th December 1829.

His mother, Helen Bruce or Fraser, died at her house,  
19 Brighton Place, Portobello, 8th July, 1839.

His sister, Joanna Fraser, born 1790, died August 1867.

Vice-Admiral Thomas Fraser, died 28th October 1870, aged 74.”

It may be explained that the subject of this notice ranked as Captain down to the year 1861 ; after which date for nine years he took rank as Rear-Admiral ; and finally for one year prior to his death he was Vice-Admiral.

In the same burial-ground, a little eastward of the Admiral's resting-place, we find that of MAJOR JAMES PEARSON, and the inscription tells that he was the son of William Pearson, Esq., of Kippenross. Besides his own death on 1st May 1848, at the age of sixty-one, that of his wife, Agnes Richardson, on 16th June 1849, aged forty-six, and three children who died young, are recorded ; and without giving the date of death, it states that his mother, Jane Campbell or Pearson, who died at the age of eighty-four, was also interred there.



*N<sup>o</sup>. 36.*

James Gillespie Graham.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Thomas Hamilton.

*Edinburgh, 1847.*



PLATE XXXVI.—A.D. 1845.

JAMES GILLESPIE GRAHAM, ESQ., QF ORCHILL, ARCHITECT.

THOMAS HAMILTON, ESQ., R.S.A., ARCHITECT.

IN this meeting of the two rival architects, the artist seems bent on fun. The grim, mistrustful look of Mr. Gillespie Graham indicates that he scarcely relishes the big mouthful of joke which has excited the other professional veteran into one of his loudest *guffahs*.

With our earliest impressions of the architectural charms of *Modern Athens*, as she "flings her white arms to the sea," we had conceived that no small portion of that beauty had been contributed by the genius of Mr. GILLESPIE GRAHAM. It was, we think, so far back as 1825 that he produced his beautiful plan for laying out the Earl of Moray's grounds of Drumsheugh, which resulted in the formation of Moray Place, Gloucester Place, Ainslie Place, and other parts and pendicles thereof, so well calculated to support the character of Edinburgh as "a city of palaces." Since those days, his talents were exhibited to some purpose in the grounds of the Marquis of Breadalbane at Taymouth, and in other parts of romantic Scotland. But no architectural work attributed to him has commanded more admiration than the chaste-looking spire on the Castlehill of our city, known as "the Assembly Hall Steeple." The reputation of having produced that elegant taper spire, however, has been grudged to him, and of late in a very public manner, when his head has lain for twenty-seven years under the sod. A kind of controversy on this subject appeared in the correspondence columns of the *Scotsman* in May and June 1882, in which one party assigns the merit of the design to the elder Pugin, a distinguished architect who was frequently employed by Graham to execute *detailed* drawings for him. Another set who equally refuse to acknowledge Graham as its designer, belong to our own side of the Tweed, and assert that he pirated the design from a drawing, exhibited long before, by

Thomas Hamilton. Can it be possible that our artist had got wind of that bit of scandal, and here introduces Hamilton in the act of throwing the charge of plagiarism in Graham's teeth, and telling him that he has designed a Free Kirk College that will monopolise the whole benefit of the stolen spire?

We are old enough to recollect a public procession which took place on 29th September 1829, in the time of Lord Provost Brown, when the foundation-stone of a church was laid on the site of the present Victoria Hall, the proposed erection being a superb building to be called "John Knox's Church," after a design by Hamilton, with a spire or tower like that of Antwerp Cathedral. That was meant as a substitute for one of the churches cut away from St. Giles's Cathedral, in course of the repairs and alterations thereon superintended by Burn the architect. Our Town-Councillors of those days were magnificent fellows, who never counted the cost before laying foundation-stones; but soon thereafter came another set elected in a different style, who pronounced the design impracticable for want of funds, and it was never proceeded with. A dozen years after that period, however, Mr. Gillespie Graham got an order to proceed with the erection of his hall and spire on the same site; and thus we are let into the secret of Crombie's funny idea worked out in the present etching.

An odd peculiarity was attached to the erection of the existing *Victoria Hall*, inasmuch as its walls were nearly raised to the full height, before the foundation-stone was laid! When the Queen paid her first visit to Scotland, it will be remembered that on the occasion of her State entry and procession through the city on 3d September 1842, the foundation-stone of the Victoria Hall was laid by Lord Frederick Fitz-Clarence, who left the Royal cavalcade for that purpose, while Her Majesty and the Prince proceeded to inspect the Castle. An inscribed brass plate was deposited as usual, and singularly enough the name of the architect is modestly withheld from it, while that of Dr. Welsh, the Moderator of the Assembly, and Sir James Forrest the Provost are given, along with his who laid "the foundation-stone of this superb structure, to be called Victoria Hall, for the use of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland." Only the other day, Mr. Peter Paul Pugin, son of him who is alleged to have supplied Mr. Gillespie Graham with the design of the much admired spire, published in the *Scotsman* some excerpts from his father's diary which go for little in justifying the claim now set up in

behalf of the latter. The dates of these do not apply to the period when Graham's plans and designs for Victoria Hall were produced, and prove only—what has been admitted—that during a series of years prior to 1842 Pugin had been very serviceable to him in making detailed drawings as he required them. But what are we to think of the following “reasoning by inference,” with which P. P. Pugin winds up his “claim of right” in a letter to the editor of the *Scotsman*, dated 7th June 1882? “Few who have taken the trouble to trace the architectural history of the time at which the Assembly Hall spire was erected (especially bearing in mind my father's accidental but opportune visit to Gillespie Graham in Edinburgh), will entertain any doubt of the authorship of this spire, every line of which bears the stamp of the hand of my late father.”

Mr. Gillespie Graham survived the erection of that *chef-d'œuvre* a dozen of years, and died in the full reputation of being its actual designer as well as its nominal architect. In his earlier years our subject was known as plain James Gillespie, architect; but he had the good luck to secure a tochered lady in marriage, which caused him to elongate his surname by adding that of his spouse. His father-in-law, William Graham, Esq., of Orchill, died, aged seventy-seven, on 14th July 1825, whereupon Mr. Gillespie Graham succeeded to the estate of Orchill in right of his wife. That lady, however, survived only till 7th June of the year following, aged forty. She and her father were buried in the same compartment of the inner or southern portion of Greyfriars Churchyard, where also the remains of Mr. Gillespie Graham were laid after his death, at the age of seventy-seven, on 21st March 1855.

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THOMAS HAMILTON, R.S.A., was about thirty-five years of age when he so greatly distinguished himself as the architect of the monument to Burns on the banks of the Doon at Alloway, near Ayr. Its foundation-stone was laid on 25th January 1820, and the structure may be described as a replication of the Athenian monument of Lysicrates, bearing also a considerable resemblance to the beautiful little temple attached to the Church San Pietro in Mantorio at Rome. Like all Hamilton's designs, it is characterised by purity of taste, his favourite study being the Grecian; although, as in the instance of the Free Church College, he could successfully work in other styles. His Orphans' Hospital at the Dean has been much admired; but the crowning work of his genius is the High School,

which is certainly one of the finest efforts of architectural art to be found in any city. It is a felicitous adaptation of pure Grecian architecture to the requirements of a modern building, and a most remarkable example of successful treatment of a difficult site which really enhances the intrinsic merit of the structure. Its foundation-stone was laid by Lord Glenorchy—afterwards Marquis of Breadalbane—on 28th July 1825, and was opened with a public procession on 23d June 1829.

Mr. Hamilton, after a few days' illness, died at his house, 9 Howe Street, on 24th February 1858, at the age of seventy-three. He was greatly esteemed in private life for his kindly disposition and his cultivated mind.





N<sup>o</sup>. 37.

Captain Jocelyn.

MODERN ATHENIANS

L<sup>ieut</sup>. Gen Sir Neil Douglas

*Edinburgh, 1847.*



PLATE XXXVII.—A.D. 1846.

CAPT. THE HON. AUGUSTUS G. F. JOCELYN.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR NIEL DOUGLAS, K.C.B., ETC.

AT the date of the etching, Sir Niel Douglas, as Commander-in-Chief of H.M. Forces in North Britain, made Edinburgh his headquarters. He resided for some time at No. 8 Queen Street, and thereafter at Dalry House, which then was a comfortable mansion, enclosed in a spacious park. He was fond of public parade and spectacle, and, accompanied by his household, including several blooming, fair-haired daughters, would frequently review the troops in Bruntsfield Links and other public parks. The young exquisite here depicted as conversing with the Commander-in-Chief acted as his aide-de-camp, and married his second daughter, Cecilia. His face speaks for his nativity, and he was not only an Irishman, but the son of an Irish lord—Robert Jocelyn, Earl of Roden. In the public parades alluded to a very superior brass band connected with one of the regiments was invariably kept near the carriage in which Sir Niel's family were conveyed from position to position; and a frequently recurring tune which the band performed was that of Mrs. Norton's sentimental ballad, "Love Not." Either at Christmas time 1846, or at Easter of the year following, Captain Jocelyn, accompanied by his young wife, left Scotland for Tullymore Park, the family seat of the Earl, his father, and affairs went gaily on as usual in Edinburgh. In the autumn following, however, the citizens were subjected to a considerable shock when the morning newspapers presented the following mournful intelligence in the obituary columns:—

August 1847. "Died at Tullymore Park, the seat of the Earl of Roden, of typhus fever, on the 25th inst., Cecilia, wife of the Hon. Augustus G. F. Jocelyn, and second daughter of Lieut.-General Sir Niel Douglas, K.C.B. and K.C.H."

Alas! the pathetic stanza of Mrs. Norton's ballad at once suggested itself.

“ Love not ! Love not ! the thing you love may die—  
    May perish from the gay and gladsome earth ;  
The silent stars, the blue and smiling sky  
    Beam on its grave, as once upon its birth. Love not ! ”

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SIR NIEL DOUGLAS was born in 1790, and entered the army at the early age of ten years, in the 21st Foot, from which he removed to the 79th, or Cameronian Highlanders, with which distinguished corps he was ever afterwards connected. In 1808 he served under Sir John Moore in Spain. Thereafter he was attached to the staff of General Grahame, afterwards Lord Lynedoch, and was severely wounded in the battle of Busaco, 27th September 1810.

Having attained his majority in 1811, he became a Lieutenant-Colonel, and in 1813 joined Lord Wellington in Spain, and was present at the battle of the Pyrenees. In 1815 he commanded his own regiment at Quatre Bras on 16th June, when he was severely wounded in the thigh. In 1825 he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to King George IV., and received the honour of knighthood in 1831 from King William IV. Some time thereafter he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in North Britain, which post he resigned in 1850.

His death occurred at Brussels on 1st September 1853, at the age of sixty-three.

We have failed to obtain any reliable intelligence respecting the after-career of the Hon. Augustus G. F. Jocelyn.



A. 38.

Professor Aytoun

MODERN ATHENIANS

Alexander Smellie.

Edinburgh 1848



PLATE XXXVIII.—A.D. 1846.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM EDMONSTOUNE AYTOUN, D.C.L.

ALEXANDER SMELLIE, ESQ., PRINTER.

WE know not who is responsible for having thus planted these two figures on one plate. Undoubtedly, the etching was not so executed and left by the artist; for the slightest inspection by a practised eye will decide that the execution of the two subjects cannot be the work of the same hand. The effigy of some other "Athenian," afterwards erased from the plate, must have originally stood where that of Smellie now appears; or otherwise the right-hand portion of the plate may have been left blank when the artist died in 1847. In either case, Mr. Hugh Paton, who purchased the copperplates from the artist's executor, must have employed some inferior hand to etch in the figure of Smellie here, from one of the deceased Mr. Crombie's sketches. In the present state of the picture, the quizzical Professor is inspecting the face and figure (so sheepishly rendered here) of the University printer, as if he were a *lusus naturæ*, or some hitherto unknown object in natural history.

WILLIAM EDMONSTOUNE AYTOUN, born 21st June 1813, was the son of Roger Aytoun, Esq., W.S. (No. XVII. of the present series). Disliking the monotony of his father's profession, after a considerable trial of it, he studied for the Bar, and was enabled to enter as an Advocate in 1840. He had been trained by his father to Radicalism in politics, and so early as in his nineteenth year had ventured before the world as an author, by publishing a poem on Poland in which his ultra-Liberalism is displayed; but the effusion attracted no notice. He worked hard, although in vain, to secure the return of his Radical and erratic cousin (No. XXII. of the present series) as M.P. for Edinburgh when Jeffrey was raised to the Bench. He also became one of the staff of contributors to *Tait's Magazine*, along with Theodore Martin, and other talented writers; but

in the prospect of being soon called to the Bar his political opinions underwent a somewhat speedy revolution. He became enamoured of *Blackwood's Magazine*, and soon began to write anonymously for its pages; and his father dying in March 1843, he was left free and unfettered to disport himself in politics as he liked, without causing offence at home. At the Bar he made no marked figure, although he showed some aptness in criminal causes; and his geniality and ready wit made him a favourite among the younger members of the profession. In 1845 he was so fortunate as to be appointed Professor of *Rhetoric and Belles Lettres* in the Edinburgh University, and, without altogether surrendering his practice at the Bar, his contributions to *Blackwood* were very frequent, but still anonymous. Most of his smaller poems, including his *Cavalier Lays* and humorous prose pieces, were produced a little before and after this date. In October 1845 appeared "The Glenmutchkin Railway;" in September 1846, "How I became a Yeoman;" and in September 1847, "How I stood for the Dreepdaily Burghs."

It was in the year 1848 that he emerged altogether from the *sub umbra* he had hitherto affected in his contributions to the Magazine, and the collected *Lays of the Cavaliers* were sumptuously published with his name. In the year following he married Jane Emily, the youngest daughter of Professor Wilson, and in 1852 was nominated by the Derby Ministry to the Sherifffdom of Orkney and Shetland. In 1854 appeared his most effective and most useful work, *Firmilian; or, The Student of Badajoz: A Spasmodic Tragedy*. It was the death of an effeminate and unnatural school of poetry that had attempted to establish itself; *Firmilian* had a mission of its own which not many books fulfil so well; it was, in short, Aytoun's best piece, and he was himself hardly aware of its merits. In 1858 he edited, along with Theodore Martin, a graceful translation of Goethe's poems and ballads. The *Bon Gaultier Ballads* from the same hands was an earlier work, but the best of its contents, the "Massacre of Macpherson," is by Aytoun. His *Lays of the Cavaliers* are weak in comparison with the "Lays" by Scott and Macaulay. A true critic has said that "Aytoun's political writings were characterised by neither capability nor earnestness. He took up politics as a plaything, and did not often handle the plaything gracefully."

Mr. Aytoun's first wife was spared to him only ten years. She died at his house, No. 16 Great King Street, on April 15, 1859. Three years thereafter he entered again into matrimony with Jemima, second



daughter of James Kinnear, Esq., W.S. For a year or two before his own death his health had been in a declining condition. He died on 4th August 1865, at Blackhills, near Elgin, where he had for several seasons spent his vacations. His age was only fifty-two.

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Mr. ALEXANDER SMELLIE was the son of a distinguished father Mr. William Smellie—the “shrewd Willie” of whom Burns said,

“Altho’ his caustic wit was biting-rude,  
His heart was warm, benevolent, and good.”

He was a working printer by trade, who had educated and raised himself to a lofty position in science and letters, so as to send his name down to posterity by the production of important works that are even yet read and quoted as authoritative. He was the first Curator of the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, founded in 1780, and afterwards acted as their Secretary till he was cut off by death at the too early age of fifty-four, in June 1795. His son Alexander (our present subject) was born in 1770, seven years after the marriage of his parents, and latterly was the only survivor of thirteen children born to them.

It is not easy to reconcile the deplorably weak appearance the younger Smellie makes in the present sketch by Crombie with any information that has reached us concerning him through those who knew and associated with him. His father with all his talents and industry died in embarrassed circumstances when the son and successor was barely twenty-five years old; and yet the latter became a prosperous man, succeeded his father as Secretary of the Antiquarian Society, and their Curator from 1795 to 1815, and for several years acted first as a Councillor and then a Magistrate of the City. He was also, throughout a somewhat extended life, Printer to the University; and many of our readers will recollect his exceptionally fine house and garden at No. 7 Bruntsfield Place. Mr. James Paterson, in his letterpress to *Kay's Edinburgh Characters*, mentions that Mr. Alexander Smellie was a keen golfer and reckoned very skilful in the game. As an instance of that he records that the *Burgess Golfing Club*, in 1798, in fulfilment of a bet, selected him as one of two members to perform the feat of clubbing a ball from the pavement of Parliament Square over the weathercock of St. Giles' steeple into the High Street. They were allowed six balls

each, the time selected was early morning before the lieges were abroad, and so easily was the feat performed that most of the balls were not required for the occasion. The height is 140 feet, besides the distance from the south-east corner of the Square to the base of the Cathedral.

Mr. Smellie's wife, Janet Halls, predeceased him by two years, at the age of seventy, while the family were staying at St. Andrews. His own death occurred at home in his eightieth year. We are not aware if there is now a single representative of the family. A fine compartment of enclosed ground close to the monument of Principal Robertson in Greyfriars Churchyard—the burial-place of the elder Smellie—was adorned by the son with a finely-inscribed headstone in elegant Latin. No record of his own death has been inscribed there, although plenty of space remains for it. The following is a translation of the existing inscription :—

“Beneath are the remains of William Smellie, of the Royal and the Antiquarian Societies, who by the glory of scholarship held a chief place in the art of printing. He composed a book called *The Philosophy of Natural History*; and rendered from French into English the works of the celebrated Buffon. He died on 24th June 1795, aged fifty-four years.

“Here also is laid William Smellie, printer, his grandson, a youth who adorned literature. He died in his thirty-sixth year, on 16th Feb. 1837.

“To his father and his son, moved by remembrance of the one, and sorrow for losing the other, this stone is erected by Alex. Smellie, Printer to the University of Edinburgh.”



*N<sup>o</sup> 39.*

Lord Colonsay.

MODERN ATHENIANS

John Learmonth.

*Edinburgh, 1848.*



PLATE XXXIX.—A.D. 1846.

DUNCAN M'NEILL, ESQ., M.P., DEAN OF FACULTY.

JOHN LEARMONTH, ESQ., OF DEAN.

IT is not easy to tell what connection, if any, existed between the persons here introduced together, unless it be that they were both well-known Conservatives. The truth, however, is that this is one of the plates that were left in an unfinished state when the artist died in 1847—the right-hand side of the plate being entirely blank, while the head of M'Neill was rather unsatisfactory as regards likeness. In these circumstances Mr. Hugh Paton, who had acquired the deceased artist's stock of etchings, employed an engraver, who is still alive, to *behead* the Dean, and re-engage it from a fine drawing by Crombie. That was accordingly done, and at same time the figure of Mr. Learmonth was introduced on the opposite side, from a lithographic drawing by the same artist, bearing the title, "One of Ourselves." It will be observed that the style of etching the latter figure, as well as the head of M'Neill, is quite unlike the work of Crombie.

DUNCAN M'NEILL (afterwards Baron Colonsay) was born in August 1793, the second of three sons of the laird of Colonsay and Oronsay, two islands forming part of north Argyleshire. He was educated at St. Andrews, and then served an apprenticeship to a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, where he was induced to study for the Bar, to which he was called in 1816, along with his future colleagues, Lord Ivory and Lord Justice-Clerk John Hope. In 1820 he was an Advocate-Depute, and in that capacity signed the indictment against Stuart of Dunearn for having killed Sir Alexander Boswell in a duel in the year 1822. He was also counsel for the proprietors of the *Beacon* newspaper in the actions raised against them by James Gibson-Craig and others for libel.

By the force of his talents he rose rapidly in reputation and practice ;

indeed he was one of the most direct of thinkers and pleaders, going—as Jeffrey said of him—through the core of his subject like a knife, and was particularly skilful in cross-examining a witness. He was made Solicitor-General in 1841, and Lord Advocate in the year following; and in 1843 was chosen Dean of Faculty on Patrick Robertson being raised to the Bench, which honour was followed by his election as M.P. for Argyleshire. He was himself promoted to the Bench in 1851, and in the following year became President of the Court of Session in succession to Boyle, which included the dignity of Lord Justice-General. These honours he continued to hold till February 1867, when the Government created him a peer of the realm with the title of Baron Colonsay. He had become proprietor of Colonsay and Oronsay by the demise of his elder brother in 1846, and when his own death happened in the south of France, on 31st January 1874, the ownership of that property, by arrangement, devolved on his younger brother, Sir John M'Neill.

His remains were brought home and interred in Warriston Cemetery, where a fine monument marks the spot.

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JOHN LEARMONTH, Esq., of Dean, had carried on a very successful trade as a coachbuilder at No. 4 Princes Street, his premises being now occupied by the offices of the North British Railway Company. He was the last Lord Provost elected under the old *régime* prior to the passing of the Reform Bill, his chief-magistracy terminating in November 1833. In the year following, however, he was again brought prominently before the citizens, in consequence of the Tories having proposed him as a candidate to fill the vacancy in the parliamentary representation of the city caused by the raising of Jeffrey to the Bench. The Government sent down Sir John Campbell, Attorney-General of England, who had failed to obtain a seat there, in the hope of his being returned as Jeffrey's successor; and affairs were further complicated by the Radicals having set up Mr. James Aytoun, advocate, as an ultra-liberal candidate for Edinburgh. The election was carried by Campbell on 31st May, after a most absorbing excitement; but, unfortunately, before the year closed the Melbourne Ministry was dissolved, and a fresh *double* election was thereby rendered necessary. The two city representatives—Abercromby and Campbell—appeared for re-election, but were again met in opposition

by the Tory party, who, along with Mr. Learmonth, set up Lord Ramsay, afterwards Earl of Dalhousie. The result, however, was an overwhelming defeat of both of the Conservative candidates.

This was the last public appearance of Mr. Learmonth in city matters; he had acquired immense wealth, and at his own expense built the magnificent Dean Bridge (finished in 1833) across the Water of Leith, which cost £30,000. The object of that most successful undertaking was to connect the city by a level road from Drumsheugh at Queensferry Street with his feuing grounds on the north side of the river. The money laid out has now proved a profitable investment, besides adding immensely to the beauty and amenity of the city in that important quarter.

He died at his house, No. 6 Moray Place, on 17th December 1858, at the age of sixty-nine. He is represented by his son the present Lieut.-Colonel A. Learmonth of Dean, late M.P. for Colchester. Margaret A. Cleghorn, wife of Lord Provost Learmonth, by whom he had several other children who did not reach maturity, died in 1831 at the age of thirty-two.<sup>1</sup> Their burial-place is in the southern division of Greyfriars Churchyard.

<sup>1</sup> We cannot be certain if the following announcement from a newspaper obituary refers to his father and mother:—"Died at 4 Rutland Street (3d November 1848), Mrs. Learmonth, relict of John Learmonth, Esq."









A. 40

Captain Robertson.

MODERN ATHENIANS

John A. Bertram.

Edinburgh 1848.



PLATE XL.—A.D. 1846.

CAPT. JOHN ROBERTSON, LATE OF H.M. 14TH REGIMENT.

MR. JOHN A. BERTRAM, WINE MERCHANT, LEITH.

THE first figure is that of a gentleman still remembered in the city, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Newington, where he resided for considerably more than thirty years. He lived at No. 9, and thereafter at No. 15 Upper Gray Street, where he was regarded as a Waterloo veteran, which he may well have been, seeing he could not be under forty-three years of age in 1815. We find in the Edinburgh Directory of 1822-23 a "Captain Robertson" residing at 7 Howard Place, Warriston; but in the absence of a Christian name it would be unsafe to identify him with the subject of this notice. However, from 1830-31 we find the captain of our solicitude, and trace him from year to year till his demise, at the Newington address; so our artist may have made his sketch at any period betwixt 1831 and the year of his own death—1847. The drawings for this and its companion figure had not been represented on copper when they came, with some others, into the original publisher's hands, along with the goodly stock of etched plates, at Mr. Crombie's death. The style of execution shows that the present etching—as also the figure of Smellie on Plate XXXVIII.—are the work of a very inferior hand; but with these exceptions, together with the figures shown in Plates XXXIX., XLII., and XLIV., which we know to be the work of an artist still living, the whole series seem to have been drawn and etched by Crombie's own hand.

As the result of recent inquiries made among old residents in Upper Gray Street, we learn that Captain Robertson was a most agreeable, sociable man, who could take his forenoon glass of wine, and his afternoon glass of grog, and was by no means niggardly in sharing those good things with his friends and neighbours. He was either a widower, or

otherwise parted from his wife, when he first settled in that locality, and had two sons, one of whom had taken to a seafaring life, and eventually was lost track of. The other son was a married practitioner of the law in England, who, dying early, left a widow with one son, both of whom came to Edinburgh and resided in the captain's house. The daughter-in-law acted as his housekeeper till his death, which is thus announced in the newspaper obituaries of February 1868 :—"At 15 Upper Gray Street, Newington, on the 3d inst., Captain John Robertson, late of the 14th Regiment, in his 97th year." Thereafter the grandson, along with his mother, returned to England, and at the following Whitsunday a new tenant occupied the house of the departed old soldier.

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Mr. JOHN A. BERTRAM, the second figure on the plate, can be traced through the Directories so far back as the year 1822, when he was designated "Merchant, 31 Broughton Place, and General Commission Agent, 6 Timber Bush, Leith." In 1830 there is a change to "Wine Merchant, 26 Quality Street, Leith—house, 2 Baxter Place;" and later on we have "John Archibald Bertram, 16 Leopold Place (of John A. Bertram and Co)." His death is announced at that address, as having happened on 24th November 1860, at the age of ninety years; so that he would then be the captain's senior by about two years.

Very strong character, of an eager, but cautiously coaxing kind, is displayed in the physiognomy of old Bertram; and a good deal of dry sententious humour in the captain's face and manner. It is not always easy to guess the artist's aim in bringing together the particular pair of Athenians he has chosen to present on one plate. In this instance it may have been simply to indicate that the merchant liked a good customer and the captain was fond of the best quality of soothing stimulants.

A careful measurement of the ground, compared with the burial records of Greyfriars Churchyard, proves that Mr. Bertram and some of his family are interred on the identical spot of earth where, on 27th November 1878, Captain Matthew Henderson of Tunnochside was laid, of whom Burns has left an imperishable memorial in his world-famous elegy and epitaph composed on him, as "a gentleman who held the patent for his honours immediately from Almighty God." The ground appears to have been purchased by Mr. John Bertram in 1817, when Gilbert, his younger brother and partner in business, died.



*N<sup>o</sup>. 41.*

Lord Moncreiff

MODERN ATHENIANS

Robert Bell.

*Edinburgh, 1848.*



PLATE XLI.—A.D. 1844.

SIR JAMES W. MONCREIFF, BART. (LORD MONCREIFF).

ROBERT BELL, ESQ., SHERIFF OF BERWICKSHIRE.

OF the two members of the Bar here represented, there was a difference of five years in their respective ages. The elder became a Judge, and sat on the Bench for twenty-two years; the other was promoted to a sheriffship, and continued in that position all his life thereafter. It is not easy to guess the artist's particular reason for placing them here together, unless it be that a son of the Judge—the present distinguished Lord Justice-Clerk—married a daughter of the Sheriff.

JAMES (LORD) MONCREIFF, eldest son of the Rev. Sir Henry Moncreiff, the eminent churchman who died in 1827, was born in September 1776, and succeeded to the baronetcy and estate of Tulliebole in Kinrossshire at his father's death in 1827. After finishing his education in England, he returned with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and was called to the Bar in 1799. He started in life with many advantages, but no man's position was ever more decidedly the effect of innate force of character and talent than his. His first appointment was that of Sheriff of Clackmannan and Kinross in 1807; but even before he was "out of his teens" he had made an appearance in public as a Whig politician, which he afterwards very jocularly referred to from the chair at a public reform meeting over which he presided in 1820. Henry Cockburn thus narrates the incident:—"In the first year of George the Fourth's reign, a public meeting called by requisition of the Reforming party was held within the Pantheon, to petition the new King to dismiss his Ministers of State. Moncreiff presided, seated on the stage of the theatre, and mentioned that about twenty-five years previously, on that very spot, he had, when a lad of nineteen, held the candle to Henry Erskine while making the speech that cost him his Deanship." That



circumstance had been made the subject of a lively ballad by Burns ; and on the present occasion Jeffrey, Cockburn, and other leading Whigs took part in the proceedings, with the result that a petition was signed by 17,000 male adults. "The influence of all this," adds Cockburn, "can scarcely be overstated. Old Edinburgh was no more !"

The politics of the Scotch Whig party, and the affairs of the Presbyterian Kirk, which he revered, occupied much of Moncreiff's attention throughout life—always, however, subordinate to the main end of rising by hard work in his profession. "More remarkable for force," continues Cockburn, "than the variety of his powers, he rivalled even his father in the energy of virtue. Without any of his father's dignified air, his outward appearance was rather insignificant ; but his countenance was marked by a pair of firm, compressed lips, denoting great vigour and resolution. He possessed great power of reasoning, unconquerable energy, and the habitual and conscientious practice of all the respectable and all the amiable virtues. Jeffrey used to call him 'the whole duty of man.'" A happy parody this of Sydney Smith's observation regarding the integrity of Francis Horner, that "he had the ten commandments written in his countenance."<sup>1</sup>

In 1826 Moncreiff was elected Dean of Faculty, and in three years more was raised to the Bench, of which he became a chief ornament, even in that era of distinguished Senators of Justice. "No cause," says his brother on the Bench above quoted, "was too low for his anxiety, or too high for his reaching ; and even his grotesque, awkward manner, though it would have greatly obstructed his acting as the President,

<sup>1</sup> A picture of Sir James W. Moncreiff by Lockhart, published so early as 1819, is too good to be omitted here ; but as our text is full enough in similar descriptive painting, we consign it to a footnote. "He speaks in a firm, harsh tone, and his phraseology aspires to no merit beyond that of closeness and precision ; nevertheless, he is more given to assist his words by violence of gesture than any of the more imaginative speakers around him. When he addresses a jury he never thinks of attacking their feelings, he appeals only to their reason, if they have any. He plants himself before them in an attitude of open defiance : he takes for granted they are against him, and he must and will subdue them to his power. Wherever there is room to lay a finger, he fixes a grappling iron, and continues to tug and tear at everything that opposes him, till the most stubborn and obstinate incredulity is glad to purchase repose by assenting to his demands. His choleric demeanour gives a zest to the dryness of the discussions in which he is commonly engaged. His unmusical voice has so much nerve and vigour in its discords, that after hearing it on several occasions, one begins to relish the grating effect it produces on the tympanum."

made him more popular in a position where he only represented himself. A weak, awkward, and apparently timid manner, with a sandy, purblind look, gave him an outward appearance almost directly the reverse of the real man; for beneath this external air of helplessness there worked an acute, resolute, and original understanding, combined with great intelligence and an amiable heart. As a companion he was delightful, full of talk and odd views, very kind, and childishly natural—the merriest of grave men.”

“His oratory,” says another observer, “was peculiar, sounding at first harsh and discordant; but whether his voice underwent a mellowing change as he proceeded, or from its appropriate adaptation to his own bold and energetic working with his subject, it grew to please one like the rude grandeur of Salvator’s landscapes. In the pathetic and the playful he had his matches and superiors in that brilliant arena where his talents were exercised; but none came near him in the untying of some inextricable-looking legal knot which put feebler fingers to defiance.” In Crombie’s picture of him (now before the reader), the least observant who contemplates the little man in his brown greatcoat, trudging along with an umbrella, cogitating his own thoughts, seeking no greeting in the market-place, courting no homage or applause, must see that he was one who thought and acted for himself, and was no mere reflection of the minds of others. In mere externals there was something very unnoticeable about him, even insignificant to the common eye. But to those who came across him in the serious turmoil and the stern business of life, the effect was much otherwise; everything about him was dignified, expressive, and powerful. We doubt not that even hardened criminals, in the solitary hour of punishment, when common warnings had faded into oblivion, have recalled with mingled feelings of fear and veneration the stern humanity of the Judge’s countenance, the deep solemnity of his voice, and the impressive earnestness of his admonitions.

In matters of Church politics Sir James was an open adherent of the Non-intrusion, and latterly Free Church party; indeed, he was either the proposer or seconder of the popular Veto Act in the General Assembly of May 1834. In his capacity of Judge he invariably sided with that party in their contentions with the civil power, although he withdrew at an early stage of those contentions from taking part in the proceedings of the Church Courts. After the Disruption he still continued an elder in the Establishment, although he remained a Free Churchman at heart.

His eldest son, the present Rev. Sir Henry Wellwood Moncreiff, Bart., is the Minister of Free St. Cuthbert's Church, while his second son and namesake is the existing Lord Justice-Clerk Moncreiff, who was called to the Bar in 1833.

Of the subject of this notice it may be truly said that few men have left the world more ripely prepared for the great accounting, and with a fuller consciousness of having faithfully borne the burden of human probation. He died at his house, No. 47 Moray Place, on 30th March 1851, at the age of seventy-five, and his remains repose in the Dean Cemetery, near so many of his great compatriots.

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Of ROBERT BELL, Advocate, who came to the Bar in 1804, five years later than his illustrious companion in this plate, we only know that in 1841 he became Sheriff of Berwickshire, and during many years prior to his death was Procurator to the Church of Scotland. His large eye betokens a power of language, while the under lip and heavy cerebellum denote other decided qualities; but concerning his talents and peculiar characteristics we cannot speak "according to book," for the press notices on the occasion of his demise are altogether silent regarding these. It was his daughter Isabella, who in 1834 became the wife of the present Lord Justice-Clerk Moncreiff (raised to the Peerage in 1874), to whom allusion has been made above. She had the happiness of seeing a large family grow up around her, and died so recently as 19th December 1881. Sheriff Bell died at his house, No. 15 Great Stuart Street, on 27th April 1861, aged eighty years, having resigned his sheriffship only about a year prior to his death. He was then the oldest member of St. George's (Established) Kirk-Session.



*N<sup>o</sup> 42.*

George Combe,

**MODERN ATHENIANS**

John Gray

*Edinburgh, 1849.*



PLATE XLII.—A.D. 1846.

GEORGE COMBE, ESQ., PHRENOLOGIST.

JOHN GRAY, ESQ., SOLICITOR.

ON no principle either of harmony or contrast can we suggest any obvious reason why the artist placed these two gentlemen on one sheet to be viewed together. There was a difference of at least twenty years in their respective ages, and although both were practitioners of the law at the same period during upwards of twenty years, they may have been personally unknown to each other, so far as can now be ascertained.

GEORGE COMBE, whose name is likely to be held in permanent remembrance as a philosopher and one of the benefactors of his species, was trained as a Writer to the Signet, and practised his profession in Edinburgh till he was forty-eight years of age. About seventeen years of his life prior to that period had been to a large extent, although not exclusively, devoted to the practice and teaching of Phrenology, a new system of metaphysics and morals which had been discovered and promulgated by Gall and Spurzheim about the beginning of the present century. The remaining twenty-one years of Mr. Combe's life, with all his energies, were devoted exclusively and disinterestedly, through a bitter warfare of opposing prejudices, to the dissemination of these new doctrines which had commended themselves to his own mind as the only God-given gospel of peace.

Mr. George Combe was born in 1788, one of a family of seventeen children reared at Livingston's Yards, a locality betwixt the West Port and the south base of the Castle rocks, now obliterated by the city improvements of 1830. His father, George Combe, was a brewer there, and is described as a powerfully-made man of six feet two inches in stature, who died of apoplexy in 1815, at the age of seventy, while his wife was a short, comely person, twelve years younger, who died in 1819,

at the age of sixty-two. They were devout members of St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, and trained their children according to the strict Calvinistic principles in which they had been brought up themselves. Their philosophic son, in accounting for the weakly constitutions and shortened lives of this large family, himself included, traced these deplorable results to the parental ignorance of the natural laws by which God governs the universe. The parents believed, and taught their children to conceive, that the baleful effects of bad sewerage and overcrowded sleeping-closets were attributable, not to their own ignorance of sanitary laws, but to the primeval curse, as explained in the *Shorter Catechism* of the Kirk.

After the usual course of education supplied to those intended for professional avocations, George Combe, in 1804, became an apprentice in the office of a Writer to the Signet, and eventually passed as a W.S. in 1812. He took writing chambers, with domicile annexed, in Bank Street, where by assiduity and skill he soon acquired a fair business; and in a year or two was enabled to purchase a house in Hermitage Place, Stockbridge, to which he removed his dwelling, still keeping his office in the city. His attention was first drawn to the subject of Phrenology in the early months of 1816 through a chance introduction to Spurzheim, who had lately come to this country as a lecturer on the new science. Mr. Combe had conceived a prejudice against it through perusing a sneering article on the subject in the *Edinburgh Review*; but having seen Spurzheim at the private house of a friend dissect the human brain, and explain his system in a most fascinating manner, his attention to the theme was seldom afterwards withdrawn. He procured casts of special examples illustrative of the science, and within three years made himself nearly a master of it, and even so early as April 1817 produced an article thereon in the *Scots Magazine*. His first published work on the subject was a series of essays on the utility of the system of *Gall and Spurzheim*, with answers to objections against it, issued in 1819. At Whitsunday 1820, to meet the convenience of his younger brother Dr. Andrew Combe, he removed his house from Hermitage Place to Brown Square; and in that year also he founded the Phrenological Society, by purchasing a Hall in Clyde Street for its meetings and inducing many of his acquaintances to join the same. He was pressed to deliver lectures on the new science, which he contrived to do whenever his proper avocations allowed him a margin of leisure, and moreover to edit a Journal of its transactions which were thenceforth published to the extent of twenty volumes, closing in 1847. His

*Essays*, rearranged and extended into a new form, were published in 1825 as *A System of Phrenology*, which passed through numerous editions, and that work was followed in 1828 by the publication of his *Constitution of Man*, the most popular of his productions, of which about 100,000 copies have been issued in this country, besides an enormous number of reprints of it in America, and French, German, and Swedish translations. Another important work of his—produced at a later period (1847)—was that *On the relation between Science and Religion*, the object of which was to point out the harmony betwixt the principles of Phrenology and the morality taught in the New Testament Scriptures. His visits to various parts of the continent of Europe were of frequent recurrence, besides spending two years in America in 1838-40, to diffuse the principles of his favourite science by oral teaching.

Mr. Combe had removed his residence from Brown Square to Northumberland Street many years prior to 1833, when a fresh removal seemed to become necessary to suit an important occasion in his life, namely, his marriage to Miss Cecilia Siddons, daughter of the renowned tragedian. Till the death of his much-attached sister Jean, in January 1831, who had been his housekeeper since 1812, it had been no great self-denial on his part to live as a bachelor, but thereafter the idea of marriage commended itself to his judgment as a proper change. Meanwhile, on his sister's illness becoming serious, his niece, Miss Marion Cox, volunteered to take her place, to attend on her uncles George and Andrew. It may be well here to explain the relationship betwixt Mr. Combe and the family at Gorgie Mill. Prior to 1815 the heads of the household there were Mr. Robert Cox and his wife Ann Combe, an elder sister of our Phrenologist. In January of that year Mr. Cox was somewhat suddenly cut off by *hydrothorax*, or water on the chest, and the account recorded by Mr. Combe of his calmly heroic leave-taking and final departure is one of the most affecting and instructive passages he ever penned. The considerably large family of young nephews and nieces thus unexpectedly deprived of their father became the object of Mr. Combe's tenderest concern, the result of which sufficiently rewarded him. The late Robert Cox, author of *Literature of the Sabbath Question* and other works, the late Sir James Cox, M.D., and Dr. Abram Cox, were nephews of Mr. Combe.

Among others who attended Mr. Combe's lectures were Miss Clementina Stirling Graham, the clever heroine of *Mystifications* (at



that time an elderly lady), and her cousins, Elizabeth and Cecilia Siddons, daughters of the Queen of the British Stage, and sisters of Mr. Henry Siddons, hereafter to be noticed in connection with W. H. Murray (Plate XLIV.) These ladies were frequent visitors at the house of Mr. Combe in the evenings, and some months before the actual event, it became no secret that a "purpose of marriage" subsisted between Mr. Combe and Miss Cecilia Siddons. The marriage was solemnised in September 1833, the age of the bridegroom being forty-five, and that of the bride some six years less. On that occasion he removed to No. 23 Charlotte Square, leaving his brother the doctor under the care of their cousin Miss Cox, at Northumberland Street, and his only other change of residence took place when he removed to 45 Melville Street a few years thereafter. Mrs. Combe possessed a little fortune of her own, amounting to £15,000, the entire property and control of which her husband agreed to settle on herself, besides consenting "to become a hearer in any church where she could find the most sense and the least doctrine preached." The result of this proviso was that he took sittings under Bishop Terrot in St. Paul's Episcopal Chapel; but the most characteristic item of the marriage settlement was a stipulation that in the event of his predeceasing his wife, she must permit his skull to be given to the museum of the Phrenological Society—"in order that justice may be done to me hereafter, should any curiosity exist regarding my qualities." The marriage subsisted for twenty-five years, and was in every respect a happy one from beginning to end. She accompanied him in all his travels, even across the Atlantic, and through several continental tours; and at his death saw his remains brought home to be laid in the Dean Cemetery, in a compartment he had secured for that purpose eight years before the event. That not unlooked-for event happened while he and Mrs. Combe, in the course of a summer excursion, rested at the Water-cure Establishment of their friend Dr. Lane, of Moor Park, Surrey, after a few days' prostration by an attack of pleurisy. A simple headstone, with a bronze medallion profile head of the departed Phrenologist, marks his grave at the Dean, while a granite mural tablet shows the following inscription:—

"In memory of GEORGE COMBE, author of the '*Constitution of Man.*' Born 21st October 1788. Died 16th August 1858.—And of CECILIA SIDDONS, his Wife. Born 5th July 1794. Died 19th February 1868."

The Phrenological Society founded by George Combe still has a local habitation and a name in our city, but Edinburgh continues to be nearly

the same "focus of sectarian bigotry" which Mr. Combe's long and bitter experience found it to be; and accordingly its elegant little Hall and Museum in Chambers Street never was, and apparently never shall be, "one of the lions of Edinburgh." In a letter addressed by him to Dr. Patrick Neill in 1831, he wrote thus:—"I lately heard Sir William Hamilton admit in company that he was now satisfied that 'phrenology,' *if true*, is the most important discovery that ever has been made since man was created." Sir William was himself pledged to "orthodoxy," and therefore could safely afford to make that admission, or *sneer* rather, because in accepting phrenology, *orthodoxy*, and every belief in supernatural communication betwixt God and man, are thereby scattered to the winds. Like Lord John Russell, Hamilton held that "to ascribe Divine authority to the instincts and laws of Nature is highly dangerous doctrine."—"Dangerous to what?" responded Combe; "I think it is dangerous only to superstition and truth-destroying dogmas. The real basis on which every existing creed rests is the training of the religious emotions of children, before reason is awake, to venerate as sacred those human dogmas and fables which poison reason at its fountain-head. The religion that I cling to consists in reverence for the laws by which Divine government is maintained on earth; and therefore I seek to train the religious emotions to venerate those laws. Religion will then be in harmony with all the human faculties—a religion that must for ever be improving, in proportion to the extension of human knowledge and experience."

George Combe, like Hume and other Deists, had a strong aversion to be considered "an Atheist," and yet many acute thinkers contend that Atheism is the logical sequence of what is termed *Natural Theology*. "I have," he said, "an attached friend of great talents and attainments, who cannot see evidence in nature of the existence of God: to his mind the perception of design does not necessarily suggest a designer, while to my mind it clearly does." But in regard to the supposed future life and immortality of man, Combe's opinion coincided with that of Robert Burns—"I fear it is too good news to be true!" An American friend of Mr. Combe had produced a book with the title—*Immortality demonstrable by Reason, and Necessary to render Life Endurable*; and in delivering his opinion on the question, our Phrenologist said, "I cannot discern that God's design certainly embraces a future life, while I see nothing to contradict it; at the same time, I feel nothing unpleasant in the conviction that in this world my existence shall soon close for ever."

JOHN GRAY, Esq., Solicitor-at-Law, represented in this etching along with George Combe, was many years his senior, and we have no information to show that they were even acquainted with each other. He passed and became a member of that legal corporation in 1788—the year of Mr. Combe's birth. He resided at No. 10 Darnaway Street, in the same house with his son, John Gray, Esq., W.S., who passed in 1824, and died about the year 1870.

The father, on the other hand, here depicted, died on 21st June 1850, at the age of eighty-five.



N° 43.

Archdeacon Williams.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Rev Tho<sup>d</sup> G Suther.

*Edinburgh. 1848.*



PLATE XLIII.—A.D. 1846.

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON JOHN WILLIAMS, M.A.

REV. T. G. SUTHER, B.A., ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHAPEL.

IN this characteristic etching we see a dignitary of the English Church acting as a sort of drill-sergeant to a young curate, whom he is "putting through his facings." The latter must have been an apt pupil, for he ultimately was made a Bishop, while the teacher never got beyond the rank of Archdeacon.

ARCHDEACON JOHN WILLIAMS, a Welsh Vicar, owed his modern Athenianship to the patronage of J. G. Lockhart and Sir Walter Scott. He had been an intimate companion of the former while at Oxford, and by his recommendation, Scott in 1820 placed his second son Charles—then in his fifteenth year—under the care of Williams, who was at that time Vicar of Llampetre in Cardiganshire, with a view to preparing him for the University. "The high satisfaction with which his care of Charles Scott inspired Sir Walter induced several other Scotch gentlemen of distinction to send their sons over to the Welsh parsonage, the Vicar being one of the most accurate and extensive scholars and skilful teachers of the present time."

Sir Walter Scott took a great interest in the founding and proper equipment of the New Classical Academy, and presided at its opening ceremonial on 1st October 1824. Amid a host of distinguished candidates, his friend Archdeacon Williams carried the election for the Rectorship of that Institution, and continued in the same capacity till 1846. It may be recollected that when Sir Walter died, the burial service at Dryburgh was conducted by Archdeacon Williams, and when the latter removed from Edinburgh after twenty-two years' service as Rector of the Academy, he went to preside over a similar establishment at Llandoverly. His house in this city was at No. 13 Saxe-Coburg Place.

The public announcement of his death is in these terms :—" December 27, 1858. Died at Bushey Heath, Berks, after a long and severe illness, aged sixty-six, the Ven. John Williams, A.M. Oxon., Archdeacon of Cardigan, Canon of St. David's, and Prebend of Brecon ; for twenty-two years Rector of the Edinburgh Academy, and for five years Warden of Llandovery Institution."

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The name of THE REV. THOMAS GEORGE SUTHER, B.A., made its first appearance in the Edinburgh Directory in the year 1837, at which date, and for nineteen years thereafter, he was Curate of the pretty little English Chapel in York Place, called St. George's, where in former times the Rev. R. Q. Shannon, A.B., presided. In 1853 he obtained the degree of D.C.L., and in 1856 was translated to Aberdeen, where he was consecrated Bishop of that diocese.

The Right Rev. Thomas George Suther, D.C.L., Bishop of the diocese of Aberdeen, is privileged to be the sole survivor (in 1882) of the ninety-five "Modern Athenians" depicted in the present series. His appearance in Crombie's etching, executed in 1846, indicates him as a person apparently qualified to rise in his profession, for his step is measured and stately, and his head held high, causing a smile of satisfaction to beam in the countenance of the Archdeacon, his inspector. The Bishop of Bon-Accord must now be at least seventy years old, and we would expect that the slender waist of the year 1846 now shows somewhat of the conventional rotundity of a Bishop.



N. 44.

Robert Scott Moncreiff

MODERN ATHENIANS

William Murray

Edinburgh, 1848.





PLATE XLIV.—A.D. 1845.

ROBERT SCOTT MONCRIEFF, ESQ., OF PITLIVER.

WILLIAM HENRY MURRAY, ESQ., THEATRE ROYAL.

THE placing of these two gentlemen on one plate together was the most natural arrangement that could be adopted, for they were inseparable friends and associates about this period, and for a quarter century before ; although no stranger happening to meet them walking gravely along with arms linked together, could have conceived one of them to be a comedian of the most finished excellence.

ROBERT SCOTT MONCRIEFF, whose age at this time we would suppose to have been over seventy, had resided during many years at No. 17 Leopold Place, while his friend of the Theatre Royal had his residence in Windsor Street immediately adjoining. He was then a widower, and the beautiful portrait of his deceased wife—a well-known masterpiece by Raeburn, now in our Scottish National Gallery—then hung on the wall of his dining-room. We are ignorant of his pedigree, and even of the exact date of his death, the press-obituaries having in vain been searched for the latter ; but his name disappeared first from the City Directory at Whitsunday 1848. His is styled “of Pitliver,” in the list of *Crombie's Modern Athenians*, and in so far as age is concerned might have been the father of his namesake “of Fossoway,” who passed as an Advocate in 1816, and died at Dalkeith Park on 18th June 1869, while he held the office of Chamberlain to the Duke of Buccleuch.

So early as in 1812 and onwards we find the name of Robert Scott Moncrieff given in the almanacs as Treasurer to the Society of Scottish Antiquaries ; and in 1830 the same gentleman seems to be designed as “Old Dean of Guild, 297 High Street.” These notes will suffice, together with the portraiture itself, to identify the gentleman here represented as the crony of William Murray. But we must not omit to state that

Crombie's likeness of him did not meet his approval, and in order to conciliate him the engraver who executed the present plate waited on him at his house and made a fresh drawing from the life, which is here reproduced along with an engraving of Murray from Crombie's sketch in china-ink.

A correspondent from the neighbourhood of Pitliver has communicated to the present writer some particulars concerning the subject of this notice, which are here annexed :—

“He was of the Tullybole family, and fell heir to the Garvoch estate at the death of Andrew Wellwood, Esquire, about forty years ago, and continued for seven or eight years to be its proprietor. At his death he was succeeded by Lord Meadowbank. He was exceedingly unassuming in his manner, and kind and liberal to all about the place. He built a large house at Dalmeny of very ungainly appearance, so much so that Lord Rosebery bought it from him at a high price and pulled it down as a clumsy eyesore.” Referring to his wife's picture, by Raeburn, we observe that it is inscribed in the National Gallery as “A Bequest of Robert Scott Moncrieff Wellwood.”

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WILLIAM HENRY MURRAY, although not a blood relation of the illustrious Mrs. Siddons, was connected with that line of the Kembles by close family ties, his own sister, Miss Harriot Murray—herself highly distinguished in the same profession—being the wife of Henry Siddons, a son of that renowned queen of the British stage. That same Henry Siddons had a sister who afterwards became the wife of the celebrated Edinburgh phrenologist George Combe. He had settled in this city as lessee of the Theatre Royal, and was considered a fairly good actor, although rather deficient in voice, form, and face, to attain any marked success in his personal acting. He died on 12th April 1815 at the age of forty, leaving his wife with two sons, one of whom was just newly born. A mural tablet near the entrance to the south ground in Greyfriars Churchyard marks the spot where he and his children, with their mother—the sister of Murray—are laid in their last repose. The latter survived till October 1844, when she was sixty-one years of age; and her last remaining son, Major Henry Siddons, who resided at Portobello, followed her to the grave in less than six years thereafter.

After his brother-in-law's death Mr. W. H. Murray undertook the management of the Theatre in behalf of his sister and her family for a few seasons ; and then, by arrangement, became sole lessee from 1816 until his retirement in 1851—a period of thirty-five years. His fame as a stage-performer kept pace with his reputation as a skilful and generous-hearted manager ; indeed, his celebrity before long took a national rather than a provincial scope ; and the pleasures of a stranger's visit to our city were considered incomplete without a night at the Royal or the Adelphi to witness one or other of his many admirable performances. He made a great hit in the beginning of the year 1819, when the drama of *Rob Roy* was first brought out under his management. His own *Captain Thornton* was all that could be made of the part ; the *Dugal' Creature* of Mr. Duff could not be surpassed ; *Mattie*, with her lighted lantern, was well done ; but the *Bailie Nicol Jarvie* of Charles Mackay was the great unrivalled attraction of the whole play. "Would to heaven," wrote Walter Scott to his correspondent Terry of *The Haymarket*, "these sheets could do for you what *Rob Roy* has done for Murray ! he has absolutely netted upwards of £3000 in these two months ; to be sure, the man who played *The Bailie* made a piece of acting equal to whatever has been seen in the profession ; for my own part, I was actually electrified by the truth, spirit, and humour which he threw into the part." In three years afterwards King George the Fourth honoured Murray's theatre by his presence to witness the effect of that performance.

After a long and brilliant career, the day at length arrived when the veteran manager was constrained by felt growing infirmities to retire to the sheltering haven of St. Andrews for evening repose. He took his farewell *Benefit* on the evening of 22d October 1851, the play being Sheridan's *Rivals*, and his part *Sir Anthony Absolute* ; and in the same evening his own company of players presented him with a parting testimonial, which was presented by the identical *Bailie* as their spokesman. The gift was a pair of elegantly-formed silver jugs—one for claret and the companion one for water. Suitable addresses and replies were made, and the final separation was very affecting.

Although Mr. Murray was not in a robust condition of health when he removed to St. Andrews, no anticipation had prepared his friends here for the melancholy intelligence of his sudden death, which reached them in May of the following year. He had spent the evening of Wednesday, the 5th of May, at the house of a friend, along with Mrs. and Miss

Murray, when he seemed cheerful and happy. On the way home he complained of feeling unwell, and on reaching his house a medical man was immediately sent for, but before he arrived Mr. Murray had expired, evidently through latent disorganisation of the heart. He was in his sixty-ninth year.



N<sup>o</sup>. 45.

Robert Mercer.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Alexander Youngson.

Edinburgh, 1848.



PLATE XLV.—A.D. 1847.

ROBERT MERCER, ESQ., OF SCOTSBANK, W.S.

ALEXANDER YOUNGSON, ESQ., W.S.

REFERENCE has been made to this picture in our observations on Plate I., where an earlier sketch of Mr. Alexander Youngson by the same artist is given. The worthy old gentleman, somewhat hurt at being exposed to public gaze in juxtaposition with poor half-witted Dr. Syntax, had consented "to be done over again," provided the artist would place him *vis-à-vis* with a respectable man belonging to his own profession. Here, accordingly, we have that arrangement given effect to. Mr. Youngson, at the age of eighty, is presented in his best holiday suit, divested of his cumbrous blue mantle, leaning heavily on his old umbrella, and gazing fixedly towards the soil with which his own well-worn clay is soon to mingle. Opposite to him stands a dapper little Writer to the Signet—ROBERT MERCER, of No. 20 India Street—about forty-five years of age, and with nearly thirty years of life before him. Through his father's demise he had recently succeeded to a comfortable estate, and he stands erect and cheerful, not requiring support from *his* umbrella, which he handles lightly like a parasol; his shining new hat, too, fashionably turned up in the side rim, certainly bespeaks the light heart of its wearer.

The father of this gentleman was James Mercer, Esq., of Scotsbank, Keeper of the Abbreviates of Adjudication, General Register House, and residing at 31 Howe Street. He died there on 7th December 1846, in the eighty-seventh year of his age, when the succession to his estate—Scotsbank, in Selkirkshire—devolved on his son, our present subject. Robert Mercer, W.S., had for some time been married to Miss Elizabeth Scott Moncrieff, a daughter of William Scott Moncrieff, Esq., of Fossoway. Mr. Mercer soon retired from business in the city, and removed to the



beautiful residence in Portobello called Ramsay Lodge, where he continued till he died at the age of seventy-eight, on 3d November 1875, his wife having predeceased in September 1871. These latter particulars we learn from the tablets in the family burial-place in the cemetery of East Preston Street, Newington.



*N.º 46.*

James Simson.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Professor Munro.

*Edinburgh, 1848.*



PLATE XLVI.—A.D. 1847.

JAMES SIMSON, Esq., M.D.

ALEXANDER MONRO, Esq., PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

HERE we have a very successful etching, which gives expression and striking likenesses of two members of the same profession of high standing. The quick mercurial temperament of Dr. Simson, well displayed in the sketch, contrasts in a marked degree with the stolid gruffness and weighty calibre of the Professor.

JAMES SIMSON became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1825, and rose rapidly into a first position among the numerous practitioners of the same profession in this city. He became an office-bearer of his College at an early date, generally being either President or Secretary. So far back as 1845 his name is in the City Directory as President of the Royal College of Surgeons, residing at 3 Glenfinlas Street, which continued to be his domicile till his death in 1876. He held the appointment of Surgeon to the Prison Board during a long series of years.

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ALEXANDER MONRO, Esq., of Craiglockhart House, the *third* of his illustrious line, born 5th November 1773, was a fellow-pupil with Jeffrey at the High School in 1785-87. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1799, and in the year following was appointed conjunct Professor of Anatomy with his father, at whose resignation in 1808 he became sole Professor. He continued to exercise with full satisfaction his duties in that capacity till 1847, when he retired from public life, with the title of "Emeritus Professor of Anatomy;" and thus ended the connection between the University of Edinburgh and the family of

Monro, who had occupied the Chair of Anatomy, son succeeding father, for more than a century.

He produced several professional treatises that were much esteemed in their day, such as *Outlines of Anatomy, Craniology and Idiocy*, etc. After his retirement his time was chiefly employed in the study of the fine arts, as an amateur, and his collection of paintings by distinguished artists was small but well selected. He was also very fond of doing personal garden-work on his own property at Craiglockhart.

By his first wife, a daughter of Dr. Carmichael Smith, he had six sons and four daughters. His eldest son, Alexander, succeeded to the estates of Craiglockhart and Cockburn. Professor Monro died on 10th March 1859, and a handsome tablet on the west wall of the Dean Cemetery marks his place of sepulture.



N<sup>o</sup>. 47.

Walter Duffie.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Alexander Cleghorn.

Edinburgh, 1848.



PLATE XLVII.—A.D. 1847.

WALTER DUTHIE, ESQ., W.S.

ALEXANDER CLEGHORN, ESQ., LATE OF H.M. CUSTOMS.

IN this well-executed etching we have a thick-set, middle-size lawyer from the shire of Aberdeen, whose lion-like profile many citizens of Edinburgh must still remember, in expostulating discourse with a tall figure, of a sagacious, gentle cast of countenance, who may also be remembered by some as a near relative of the late Thomas Cleghorn, Esq., Sheriff of Argyleshire. What might be the subject of their discourse, it would be hazardous to conjecture, but Walter Duthie was not easily overcome in an argument when *a point of law* was at stake.

Mr. WALTER DUTHIE, W.S., of No. 6 Great King Street, was born about the year 1795, and, after serving his apprenticeship and otherwise qualifying himself, passed as a Writer to the Signet in 1817. For about half a century thereafter he was a familiar figure in the Supreme Courts of Law, and held the character of an upright and very astute man of business. He died at the above address on 30th September 1868, about the age of seventy-three.

A nephew of Mr. Duthie, who practised as a Notary Public, continued to reside at 6 Great King Street till 1879, and in the Directory was styled "Alexander Duthie of Ruthrieston."

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ALEXANDER CLEGHORN, Esq., resided at No. 3 Heriot Row at the date of the etching, from which house he removed in 1848, along with his son, who had passed as an Advocate in 1832. His residence thereafter was No. 26 Queen Street, at which time he had retired from a very



long service as Inspector-General of Exports and Imports for Scotland. If we mistake not, he was a brother of Mr. James Cleghorn, celebrated as an authority upon agricultural matters, who died in 1838, and who had been editor of the *Farmer's Magazine*, and founder of our very successful "Scottish Provident" Insurance Institution. The latter had also been co-editor with Thomas Pringle of the first six numbers of *Blackwood's Magazine* in 1817.

Our subject died on 18th June 1850; and his son (or perhaps nephew), Thomas Cleghorn, who resided with him, both in Heriot Row and at 26 Queen Street, was appointed to the Sheriffship referred to, in 1855, and died within the last few years at the same address.



N<sup>o</sup> 48.

Charles Cuninghame.

MODERN ATHENIANS

Adam Black

Edinburgh. 1848



PLATE XLVIII.—A.D. 1847.

CHARLES CUNINGHAM, CITY CLERK.

ADAM BLACK, LORD PROVOST.

THE placing of these two gentlemen together on one sheet was doubtless suggested to the artist by their unavoidable connection as city functionaries for the time being, although, apart from that circumstance, they may have been very familiar friends. Mr. CHARLES CUNINGHAM passed as a W.S. in 1808, consequently he must have been over sixty years of age when the present sketch was taken. His partner in business was Mr. Carlyle Bell, W.S., who passed in 1810, and died at his house, 7 Royal Circus, in 1850. The residence of Mr. Cuningham was during a long series of years, and down to near the date of his death in 1856, at 16 Walker Street, his business having been all along conducted at 84 George Street. He also, in conjunction with his son Alexander Cuningham, W.S. (who passed in 1827), acted as Clerk to the Commissioners of Northern Lights, at 84 George Street, from which office the latter only recently retired. The subject of this notice is now represented by his son above named, and a grandson, Edmund C. Cuningham, W.S., both residing at 24 Palmerston Place.

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Although the face and figure of Mr. ADAM BLACK may not here be hit off with the utmost felicity of our artist, sufficient likeness is left for identification by those to whom he was externally familiar. Fortunately we are not without other less perishable representations of the distinguished man who in this collection closes the list of *Crombie's Modern Athenians*. During the progress of a public life unusually extended, Mr. Black

occupied in succession almost every position of honour that can be attained by a citizen ; and since his demise a statue of him in bronze has been set up in the most attractive of our thoroughfares, to indicate, now and hereafter, what manner of man he was.

The son of a builder in Edinburgh, Mr. Black was born on 20th February 1784, and it may not be reckoned over-minute to state that he first saw the light of day in a part of the same tenement—No. 7 Charles Street—where the illustrious Francis Jeffrey was born, some ten or eleven years before. His course of tuition at the old High School was supplemented by attending for one session at the University, to improve his knowledge of Latin and Greek. Having elected as his future vocation that of a bookseller, he served the usual term of apprenticeship with one in the trade named Fairbairn ; and with a view to make himself master of the honourable craft in its more extensive ramifications, he removed to London. There he entered on a course of journeymanship in the large bookselling house of Lackington, Allen, and Co., familiarly called the “Temple of the Muses,” in Finsbury, in which he was subjected to a most thorough drilling, some of the hardships of which he would recount in aftertimes for the edification of an occasional laggard within his own establishment. Returning to Edinburgh in 1815, he commenced business on his own account, with the least possible delay, in South Bridge Street, opposite the University Gate, and almost next door to Blackwood’s, which latter soon became famous as the headquarters of the brilliant Magazine still bearing that name.

In 1817 Mr. Black widened the foundations of his citizenship by marriage with the only daughter of James Tait, builder, and sister of the afterwards well-known William Tait, publisher of *Tait’s Magazine*. In the locality mentioned he cultivated an ever-increasing business until the General Post establishment at 27 and 29 North Bridge removed to its more suitable site in Waterloo Place, when he purchased the deserted premises, and carried on his trade at “the old Post Office” during the next thirty years or thereby. In 1827-28, when the affairs of the great publishing house of Archibald Constable and Co. went to wreck, Mr. Black acquired the copyright of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and engaged in other large publishing adventures. In the management of such important publications Mr. Black was brought into intimate personal relations with authors of the first rank in literature, science, and philo-

sophy ; and his own political opinions having taken an early Liberal bent, he had by this time become eminent in the Reforming movements of the period. In 1829-30 he commenced to issue the seventh edition of the *Encyclopædia*, in a new and greatly expanded form. He had about that time taken into partnership Charles Black, the son of a predeceased brother, and thereafter the business was, and still continues to be, conducted under the nominal firm of Adam and Charles Black.

Mr. Black had been a member of the Merchant Company from an early period of mature life, his name appearing in its records from 1822 downwards, in connection with Liberal resolutions and proceedings emanating from that body. During two several terms of office he is found acting as "Assistant," and thereafter as "Master," in which capacity he was enabled to spread the Reforming principles to which he had pinned his faith, and which he soon had the satisfaction to see triumphant. Parliamentary and Burgh Reform were blessings, however, that had to be struggled for through many discouragements ; and some of our more aged readers will recollect the "black-flag procession" and indignation gathering in the King's Park in May 1832, when the Ministry under Earl Grey resigned because the Lords refused to pass the Reform Bill. At a previous public meeting Mr. William Tait had suggested the royal creation of as many peers as would secure the necessary majority in the Upper House ; and on this occasion Mr. Black, from the platform presided over by John Archibald Murray, made a speech to the vast assemblage, which is still worthy of remembrance. Part of it ran thus : — " Shall a barrier of 150 coronets and mitres, with any other baubles to boot, suffice to stem the torrent of public demand for Reform ? The question now is—Whether Mrs. Partington with her mop is to sweep back the Atlantic, or—Will the Atlantic wash away Mrs. Partington, mop, pail, and all ? Let the House of Commons *refuse the supplies* till it has secured a bill for Parliamentary Reform, at least as efficient as that which was attempted to be passed by the late Ministry, and basely thwarted by an unprincipled faction."

It was a rightful recognition of Mr. Black's unremitting patriotic efforts that he was chosen a member of the first Town Council constituted under the new *régime*. During the three years he then continued at the Council Board he acted as Town Treasurer, and overtook a vast amount of laborious work, in anxious endeavours to arrange with the city creditors,

the financial condition of its exchequer having sunk into decrepitude under the old management. After an interval of retirement he returned to his municipal labours, and in 1843 was elected Lord Provost, in succession to Sir James Forrest—not, however, without an attempt of organised opposition from a disaffected coterie, which at a later period bred dispeace where unity within had once commanded respect from without. The duties of the Provostship were satisfactorily fulfilled during the customary term of three years, whereupon he was re-elected for two years additional, and soon thereafter he received, through Lord John Russell, an offer of Knighthood from the Crown, which he saw fit to decline. His portrait was, by public subscription, executed in full length by Sir John Watson Gordon, and hung up within the Council Room; but before the close of his last term of office he had the mortification, at the general election of 1847, to see his venerated friend, the accomplished statesman, Thomas Babington Macaulay, ousted from his seat as member for the city—the result of an unholy alliance between religious bigotry and public-house interests. That mistake on the part of the Edinburgh constituency was in some degree atoned for in 1852, when Mr. Macaulay was wooed and prevailed on to resume his representation of the city, although the stated ground of former dissatisfaction was never removed. Mr. Black, who thoroughly endorsed the principles of political economy avowed by Macaulay, was induced, when his friend resigned his seat in consequence of being raised to the peerage, to present himself (in 1856) as a candidate for the city membership in his room. In the face of a cunningly-devised opposition, composed of amalgamated Tories and “Advanced Liberals”—much too far advanced for Mr. Black’s taste—he was returned by a majority of 643 votes. He afterwards succeeded in retaining his seat at the general elections of 1857 and 1859; but at the close of his nine years’ honest work in Parliament in behalf of his native city the supporters of Mr. Black were out-voted. The “Advanced Liberals” had been drilled and recruited into such proportions that he was supplanted by Mr. Duncan M’Laren in 1865.

Notwithstanding that Mr. Black was now eighty years of age and might be supposed to require cessation from Parliamentary toil, such was the elasticity and wiriness of his physical framework that he continued to interest himself in matters public and private until his death, which occurred nine years afterwards, on Saturday 24th January 1874.

His place of sepulture in Warriston Cemetery is adorned by an elegant mural entablature, in front of the terrace on which stands the little English chapel; and in Princes Street, betwixt the statues of two anti-reformers of great note—Professor John Wilson and Sir Walter Scott—his fellow-citizens have placed his sculptured form by way of encouragement to the humblest aspirant who is capable of profiting by good example.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.—A.D. 1831.

IT were mere waste of words to introduce here a memoir of the greatest Athenian of modern times; but the following lines, from the same lyric by Lady Nairne whence the opening motto is derived, will fitly close our volume.

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That send your name on wings of fame beyond the burning line;  
A name that stood maist since the flood, and just when it’s forgot,  
Your bard will be forgotten too—your ain Sir Walter Scott!”

THE END.





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